



The Blawenburg Beacon

Newsletter for the members and friends of the Blawenburg Reformed Church

2016 FEBRUARY

February — A Time to Celebrate and Remember

February is a month filled with many things to celebrate. Did you know that among the several dozen occasions we are supposed to celebrate this month, there are Candy Month, Cat Health Month, and Umbrella Month? Here at BRC we will be celebrating and remembering through important events. Here are some of them:

February 5

BVS – Soup for Siblings – We welcome and support our preschool students. (page 6)

February 7

Family Worship and Breakfast – We help our young people know and love God. (page 5)

Scout Sunday – We welcome members of Troop 46, which we have sponsored since 1933!

Holy Communion – We remember Christ’s sacrifice for us.

February 10

Ash Wednesday – Lent begins – While we will not have a service, we encourage everyone to take a few moments to reflect on the meaning of Lent...a time for prayer, repentance for our sins, and changing our selfishness into acts of kindness and support for others. And consider worshipping at 11:30 AM with our neighbors at Princeton Seminary!

February 14

Valentine’s Day – Cupid isn’t the only one who wants us to celebrate love. God is love and he wants us to celebrate it this day and all year.

Dedication of the sound system to the memory of Maitland Van Nostrand – It’s important to remember those who have gone before us and contributed to the life of our church. Mait was a man who loved God and among many other tasks, operated our sound system. We will remember him with love on this day.

Pot Luck Luncheon – We will gather after worship for food and fellowship. (page 3)

February 17

Men’s Breakfast — Gathering for Christian fellowship. (page 5)

February 28

Crawford House Soup-making – All the residents of Crawford House will meet at Cook Hall in the afternoon to learn how to make soup, salad, and dessert. They will then enjoy their meal with us. It’s one small way we can reach out to help these women rebuild their lives and let them know that people care about them. (page 7)

You may not get excited about celebrating Umbrella Month, but we all can get excited about reaching out to others this month to let them know we care about them. Just touching one person in February can make them feel great for the whole month. If we do this, it will make us feel good, too!



- Dave Cochran, VP of Consistory

This Issue Includes:

Reflection	1
Worship Feb Schedule Field Trip?!	2
Hospitality Lay Recognition Care Team	3
Life-Long Learning Family Worship Lenten Devotion BVS Events	5
Missions Crawford House Dina’s Dwellings Pasta Collection Oman Update	7
Proclaiming Rummage Sale Lent with MCC Women’s Retreat	9
Admin. Info Consistory Notes Directory Update	11
Calendar	12

...and more!

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

A Variety of Faces and Fresh Voices

We were sorry to have to cancel our worship service on January 24th because of the snow, but we hope many of you tuned in on your computers to the live-streamed service at Marble Collegiate Church. It was comforting and inspiring to be able to do that. Remember that you can tune in any Sunday morning at 11 AM when you are unable to join us in person at Blawenburg.



We missed hosting and hearing Chad Tanaka Pack from Marble on the 24th but hope we'll be able to have him back sometime soon. We are grateful for our partnership with Marble Church and are happy to have hosted the Rev. Kirsty DePree on January 31st and look forward to the Rev. Mark King leading our communion service on February 7th. That weekend we will also be celebrating our annual Scout Sunday, honoring our Boy Scouts from Troop 46, which we sponsor. Come out and join us as we thank them for their many hours of service on our behalf, and stay to celebrate with them at a special coffee and fellowship hour.

On February 14th Nancy Curtis will return to our pulpit and we will 'share the love' that special day by dedicating our improved sound system, given in memory of our beloved Mait VanNostrand, Nancy's father. This is the first Sunday of Lent and we will share our second potluck luncheon of the winter. (see page 3) Please join us – there is always ample food to share! On the 21st and 28th we will be treated to Carlos Corro back in the pulpit and hope to see Charlotte and baby Lemuel as well!

We are hoping to follow the Revised Standard Lectionary, so that you can read the lessons ahead, if you wish. Lectionary passages are noted in the schedule below. We will be looking for congregation members to be liturgists and/or to read scripture. If you haven't been asked yet and would like to help out, please contact Gracie Johnson, gtuckerbj@gmail.com. We hope you will continue to worship with us in this time of transition to hear a fresh voice and fresh message each Sunday.

Missed Worship?

Listen to sermons online at <http://blawenburgchurch.podbean.com/> and view the bulletin at www.blawenburgchurch.org/calendar

February Schedule

February 7—

Transfiguration Sunday

8:32 AM, *Family Worship and Breakfast*

Led by Jen Lizzi, Emma Murphy and Morgan VanLiew (page 5)

10:00 AM, *Service of Holy Communion & Scout Sunday*

Preacher: **Rev. Mark King** from Marble Collegiate Church

Luke 9:28-36, "When Heaven Touched The Earth"

February 14—1st Sunday in Lent

Preacher: **Nancy Curtis**

Romans 10:8-13 and Luke 4:1-13, "Having a Heart for God"

Service will include dedication of the Sound System.

February 21—2nd Sunday in Lent

Preacher: **Carlos Corro**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Phil. 3:17-4:1;

Luke 13:31-35 or 9:28-36 [37-43a]

February 28—3rd Sunday in Lent

Preacher: **Carlos Corro**

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; I Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

A Field Trip?

Looking ahead to later in the spring, our worship team is thinking of hiring a bus one Sunday and 'taking church' into the city to worship at Marble Collegiate. We are looking at possibly April 24, May 22 or a summer Sunday. We will send out a questionnaire for your response as we won't do it unless we get a large consensus that this would be a good and fun idea. If we do this, we would be sure to advertise well in advance. Think about the idea and look for our request for responses later in the month.



Join Marble throughout the season of Lent! — See page 9 for worship and reflection opportunities!

Warm Up Your Voice! Lent/Easter choir rehearsals are starting soon — Look and listen for more info!

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

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord — 2016 Lay Recognition Dinner

On Friday, April 8 the Synod of Mid-Atlantic will be hosting its biennial Lay Recognition Dinner to recognize those who are being honored for their volunteer work in their individual congregation.



Evelyn with grandchildren
Amanda, Ryan and Anna

Each church was only able to nominate one outstanding individual this year. Blawenburg will be honoring **Evelyn Cochran**. Evelyn has been an active member and Deacon of Blawenburg Reformed Church for over 40 years. She participates in worship, choir, Bible study, and just about any event that takes place at the church. She is a gifted leader who has chaired many committees including: Student Aid Fund, weekly fellowship hour, Pastoral Search Team, Blawenburg Village Pre-school Board, food booth for the Christmas Bazaar, and the soup-making project for Crawford House, a local halfway house in our community. Her sewing and cooking skills are well known and appreciated. Evelyn's "joyful noise" is a blessing to the members and friends of our church.

All members of our congregation are invited to attend this event on April 8 at The Imperia on Easton (1714 Easton Ave, Somerset, NJ 08873). Reception begins at 6:30 PM and the formal dinner begins at 7:30 PM. The cost is \$50 per person and you can make a check payable to Blawenburg Church. Entrée choices are Chicken Bruschetta or Stuffed Portabella Mushroom. If you would like to attend, please contact Sarah Hong in the church office (brcl832@verizon.net or 609.466.1832). Reservations are due by March 1st.

Covered Dish Luncheons

Bring some food, bring a friend, bring yourself, and join the fun! Our remaining winter Pot Lucks will be Sunday, February 14 and Sunday, March 13. Ovens will be on low heat during worship if you want to keep your dish warm during the service. Drinks and desserts will be provided by our Family Life Team. Meal will officially begin around 11:30 AM. Hope you can come!



Greetings from South Bend!

A Note from Pastor Travis: "We are getting settled into life here in South Bend. Emily is enjoying her new position and the boys are getting used to their new house and exploring a new town. We miss BRC and life around Blawenburg and send our greetings to you all. We are very grateful for the generous parting gift from the church community. We receive that gift with deep appreciation and thanksgiving for our time in Blawenburg. We continue to pray for you all during the transition."

The Wincklers welcome continued correspondence with their BRC family—

Travis, Emily, Gabe, and Silas
1412 E. South St.

South Bend, IN 46615

travis.winckler@gmail.com (note the change in email)

We had a great turn-out for our January 10 luncheon, including Nancy Curtis and her hubby! Many also stayed for our Education Hour live from Marble Collegiate Church!



HOSPITALITY cont.

With a Grateful Heart

Thanks for allowing me to bring my kids to work when they are sick or their childcare center is closed; they really enjoy playing at “Mama’s Church.” I really appreciate your welcoming all of us into the family here at BRC. And thank you for your patience, flexibility, love and prayers while my husband has been in the hospital and continues outpatient treatments this month.

- Sarah Hong, Administrator



Abby enjoys the cubbies and blocks and Matthijs loves eating at his “desk”



Care Team Resurrected

At its January meeting, Consistory was reminded that there is no higher calling than for us to love God and care for our families, friends and neighbors. A care team has been established to enact this calling in our church and community. The prayer chain has been updated and will be redistributed very shortly. Should you not find your name on the list, but would like to be included, please let Sarah know. Please think about how you can reach out to someone, and if you are so inclined, contact Chip Parmele or Barb Reid to serve on the BRC Care Team. We need to care for each other as God cares for us.

Read the article “Who Cares?!” on our church blog, for more about our call to care — online at www.blawenburgchurch.org!



Condolences to Everett May at the loss of Maggie May over the Christmas holiday. A service of remembrance was held on Sunday, December 27 with many family and friends who were in town. She was laid to rest in the Blawenburg Cemetery.

A Salute to Our Scouts

Thank you to the scouts of Troop 46 who came out for a second day of yard clean-up on December 14. Thank you also to Deven Sheh of Troop 46 who built picnic tables for the BVS playground as his Eagle Project; the kids and teachers look forward to using them in the spring!



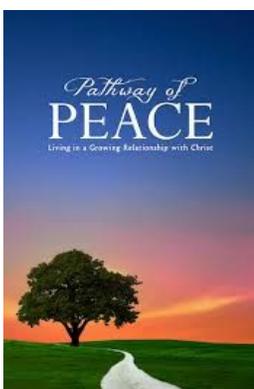
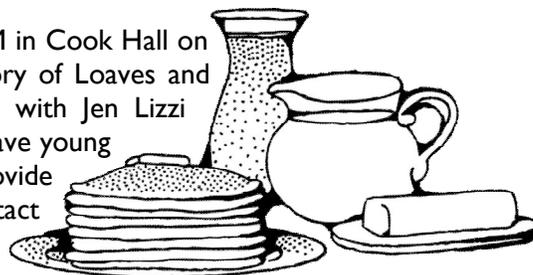
And we look forward to Scout Sunday on February 7 as we celebrate all that these scouts do for our church and community.



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

Family Worship & Breakfast

All families of young children are invited to join us at 8:32 AM in Cook Hall on Sunday, February 7. We are looking forward to hearing the story of Loaves and Fishes led by Emma Murphy and Morgan VanLiew, and music with Jen Lizzi (BVS music teacher). Please spread the word! Even if you don't have young children, come join us! We would also love others to come provide hospitality and serve breakfast! If you're able to help, please contact Ethel Terhune, 908.359.6027.



Mary & Martha — A Pathway of Peace

All women are invited to join Mary & Martha in reading Pathway of Peace: Living in a Growing Relationship with Christ by Cheryl Eton. The group will meet for dinner, discussion and prayer on **Tuesday, March 15** at 6:30 PM at the home of Bernice Van-Nostrand. Let Bernice know if you're interested (vns206@aol.com) and she will keep you informed. The Somerset County Library System usually has multiple copies of books, or you can purchase through Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

In Absentia—Gracie shared a note from Sue Schreuder which let the Mary and Martha group know that Sue is reading along with them. Sue, a retired missionary to Chiapas supported by BRC, was able to attend a Mary and Martha gathering while she and her husband Al were visiting Blawenburg last September. She has just started Breakfast at Sally's and will look for our next book, Pathway to Peace. If anyone else would like to read with the group in absentia, and even send along your observations or questions, the group will reserve a place for you at the dinner table discussion (and wish you could be with them in person)!

Sue and Al are looking forward to 10 weeks in Chiapas, Mexico, beginning February 10th--quite a different climate from the cold, Iowa winter they are experiencing now! Enjoy, and blessings to you, Sue and Al.

Men's Breakfast

For ease of travel in the winter months, the Men's Breakfast will be held at the Red Oak Diner on the third Wednesday of February and March (February 17th and March 16th) on Route 206, Montgomery Township, at 7:30 AM. Hope to see you there. We'll chase the chill with a hot breakfast!

Diving into the Word

Weekly Bible Study continues on Tuesdays at 10 AM in Cook Hall. Join us as we discuss the scripture from the Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday and share joys & prayer requests.

February 2 – II Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

February 9 – Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

February 16 – Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

February 23 – Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; I Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Lenten Journey with Marble Church

Our congregation is invited to journey through Lent alongside the congregation at Marble Collegiate Church. Sister Carol Perry's Lent devotional *Listening* is available at www.MarbleChurch.org to download or read as daily blog entries. You can also participate in an online small group studying the book of John, Mondays at 7 PM with Mark King or Wednesdays at 7:15 PM with Kirsty DePree. More info online at www.MarbleChurch.org.



Blawenburg Village School

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

A Fun-Filled February Ahead!

The school-wide theme this month is Valentine's Day. Specifically love, kindness and sharing. The last day of February starts the Read Across America Week. We will have a visit from the librarian at Mary Jacobs Library and celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss!

Here are other events we're looking forward to this month...

Soup with Siblings/Family Fun Night

On Friday, February 5th we will host a Winter/Valentine themed Family Fun Night filled with soup, crafts and games.

Pancakes and Pajamas/Kids' Night Out

Kids ages 2-11 are invited to join the fun on Friday, February 26th. This month we'll wear our pajamas and have breakfast for dinner! Kids need not be enrolled at BVS to participate! All are welcome.

Afternoon Enrichment is available every day, 1:00-3:00 PM. We welcome children ages 2-5 to join us for a variety of activities throughout the month. Kids can extend their day or just attend an afternoon. **Soccer Shots** will continue on Monday afternoons.

Our **Parent/Child Classes** are designed for parents to experience the joy of learning alongside their little ones, ages 2 and under. The next 10 week session begins March 7th, 9:30 to 10:30 AM.

We will also offer **tutoring programs** and **Mom's Morning Out** for interested students and families.

Kids continue to enjoy our weekly **Music & Movement** program with Ms. Lizzi and **Children & Worship** with Ms. VanNostrand.

Registration has begun for the **2016-17 academic year!** In addition to our preschool programs we'll also be offering full-day kindergarten for 5 year-olds! We hope that many new families will attend our **Open House** on Saturday, February 20.

We are currently looking for another **part-time preschool teacher**—if you know someone who is qualified please encourage them to contact Karen Hill!

Thank you for your support!



Like us on facebook
to view more photos!



In January the kids had fun building snow sculptures both in the yard, and in the classroom!



The Buds experimented with magnets!

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

Crawford House Soup-Making!

Once again, we will host the Crawford House residents for a soup-making/eating event. It will take place in Cook Hall on Sunday, February 28 from 3:00 - 6:00 PM. If you would like to help teach soup-making or just join the residents for dinner, please let Sarah know by Feb 23. This successful event has been going on for over five years. It is a chance for us to reach out as a Christian community to our Crawford House neighbors.

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 (Total cost is about \$200.)

If you have any questions or wish to help, please contact Evelyn or Dave Cochran (davidc99@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!



There's No Place Like Home — Dina's Dwellings, New Brunswick

The following article reveals what can be done with a repurposed, giant, historic sanctuary. See more information at www.townclockcdc.org. Contact Gracie Johnson if you would like to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony.



New Hope for Domestic Violence Survivors - The day has finally come and 10 survivors of domestic violence and their children will have a place to call home. The place is called Dina's Dwellings and is the vision of a local organization committed to providing permanent, supportive housing to survivors of abuse. The organization, called the Town Clock Community Development Corporation (TCCDC) in cooperation with Bergen County United Way / Madeline Housing Partners LLC and the First Reformed Church of New Brunswick have completed building 10 apartments inside the sanctuary of the First Reformed Church in New Brunswick.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for this innovative project will take place on **Thursday, February 11** at 3:15 pm and will be the only time the apartments will be open to the public.

The Power of Pasta

Donations of boxes of pasta and cans or PLASTIC jars (no glass, please) of pasta sauce will be collected in the sanctuary or in Cook Hall during the month of February. We just sent \$5,000.00 to Heifer International to help those in need in this country and around the world. Now let's see how much pasta and sauce we can give to replenish our local Montgomery Food Pantry. (However, if you prefer to give a cash donation or a ShopRite gift card, these will be collected at the doors in front of the main gym at Montgomery High School during the following home games: February 4th and 6th—boys basketball games; and February 10th—wrestling.)



Update from Oman

We continue to support RCA missionaries, Ken and Marcia Bradsell as they serve the Protestant Church in Oman. Read their January 2016 update letter on the next page. You can also read more about the mission through their annual report, available online at <http://images.rca.org/docs/mission/reports/bradsell-yr.pdf>

MISSIONS cont.

Dear Supporters and Friends,

*“...everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.
Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’” (Ephesians 5:13-14 NRSV)*

It has been awhile since I have sent a letter off to all of you. The plan was to do this at the start of Advent. Alas, this former church executive had to relearn the calendar of pastoral ministry and amend the plan when the Advent, Christmas, and New Year schedule presented itself.

Our Advent and Christmas services reflecting the full diversity of our 40+/- national and ethnic congregations were times of reflection and renewal as we moved together to the celebration of the incarnation of our Lord and Christ. Helping along the way was an amazingly rich international choir service with singers from our PCO congregations and the numerous language group evangelical churches we support (over 60). Our newest (2014) worship space on our Ruwi campus, designed to seat 600 was full to standing room only as we listened and learned, and now and then tried to sing the words of traditional Advent and Christmas songs sung in Tamil, Urdu, Arabic, Korean, etc.

A high point of the season for me was the opportunity to welcome our guests to this year’s annual “Christmas Joy” program of fellowship, food, and entertainment for migrant workers who serve as cleaners, housemaids, nannies, and clerks. Due to space restrictions and cost the program alternates each year to be exclusively for migrant women (this year) or men (next year). The Gulf States have millions of very low paid workers who have built (literally), clean, maintain, and support these lands. Oman is the most progressive in its treatment of this population. Yet, many are not treated well by employers who collect and hold their passports so they can’t leave. They have come here because they are paid more than they could earn in their home countries in south Asia and Africa. Most of what they earn is sent home in remittances to support spouses, children, and aging parents. Annually, through careful negotiation with often distrustful employers we gather about 500 of these workers who labor among all of us in Oman and barely acknowledged or even noticed them. We devote an evening to serving them. We do it with far less skill than they possess. But, we learn their names and address them by name. We show them the respect they are due. We share the hospitality and grace of the Gospel and, they learn of our availability to provide assistance and support should they need an advocate at any time during the year.

Our Christmas services (5pm and 11pm on Christmas Eve, 6:30am and 10:30am on Christmas morning) brought standing room worshippers and, between us and our Roman Catholic and Orthodox colleagues (we worship on a shared campus) also caused massive traffic tie ups I am more familiar with at American shopping malls during the holidays. The ROP (Royal Omani Police) untangle snarls and keep the Christians moving along as best they can so all can have a blessed Christmas.



Marcia and I were especially appreciative of our time on New Year’s Eve when we were the guests of Eloise Bosch, her sons Paul and David and their spouses, and her daughter Bonnie and Bonnie’s son Ron. In recognition of the years of service Eloise and her late husband, Dr. Donald Bosch, contributed to the Sultanate of Oman (Eloise as a teacher, Don as doctor and medical director), Sultan Qaboos al Said began the practice of sending to the Bosch home the Sultan’s New Year’s banquet (kind of banquet “take out”) for Eloise, her family and guests. Twelve of us dined in elegance to bless the year passing and the promise of a New Year with prayers and fresh hopes of peace and reconciliation in our region and throughout the world.

As always, we are deeply appreciative of your ongoing friendship, your interest in the work we do here, your prayers, and your financial pledges and gifts to the RCA to sustain the pastoral post I serve in. We will soon begin thinking about and planning our home assignment schedule for the summer months in the USA. If you would like to get in an early request for a visit send me a note. Sundays fill fast. July 3 has already been claimed by one of you. Sunday, weekday and evening conversations with consistories or groups of interested members and friends are especially engaging for us and, we hope, for participants.

Epiphany Blessings, Ken and Marcia Bradsell

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

Don't Forget the Rummage Sale!

The Blawenburg Church Annual Rummage Sale is on the calendar for April 15 and 16th. Think about us when you are cleaning your clothes closets or have toys, jewelry and household items you don't want anymore.

We can only make this happen if we have the help from you!

We will need help during the week setting up, so please reserve time in your calendars to stop by and lend a hand.

Questions? Want to help? Please contact Ethel Terhune (908.359.6027) or Jean Beachell (609.924.7637).



Painters' Paradise

Alan Taback's artwork is on display as part of a Winter Art exhibit at the Stuart Country Day School where he coaches basketball and golf. One of the pieces of art on display was created during a Blue Pomegranate event! Also on exhibit are the paintings of French-born artist Silvère Boureau. "Painters' Paradise" is an exhibit of two artists' unique points of view, expressing their visions of the natural world. The public is invited to view the exhibit on display at Stuart's Considine Gallery, from January 10 through February 25, 2016. The gallery is open from 8:00AM – 6:00PM, Monday through Friday, when school is in session.

Marble this Month...

We are grateful to be continuing our partnership with Marble Church even through our time of transition. If you ever find yourself itching to go to the city, check out these events at our partnering congregation! More events and details are online at www.MarbleChurch.org and consider signing up for their weekly or monthly newsletter and stay informed! See more about our partnership and a possible field trip on page 2.

- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** Tuesday, February 9
Please join us any time between 5:00 and 8:00 PM for our First Annual Pancake Supper! Bring a friend, bring your family and enjoy pancakes flipped by our very own ministers and staff. Gluten-free options available. We'll have a great time!
- **Ash Wednesday Worship** Wednesday, February 10
1:00 PM – "A Clergy Conversation About Lent" (Mark 1:12-13), Rev. Kirsty DePree and Dr. Michael B. Brown reflect on the meanings of the season.
WeWo: Wednesday Worship @ 6:15 PM "WeWo" blends traditional and contemporary worship styles, taking the best of both. Meets in the Sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, then back in the Marble Loft. Holy Communion each week February 17 – March 16. **If you can't attend in person, tune in online!**
- **Lenten Small Groups Online**, February 14 - March 23 (see more on page 5)
- **Jazz Revelation** Sunday nights @ 6:30 PM.
- **60+ Fellowship and Program** Wednesdays at 12 noon.
- **The Road Home** Tuesday, February 23 | 8:00pm at Merkin Concert Hall
The Marble Choir presents a concert of poignant songs about searching for home, returning home, and hoping for an everlasting home – featuring the works of Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Paulus, and Ken Medema, among others. The evening also includes a short presentation from Habitat for Humanity, as Marble Church launches a partnership with the organization. At Merkin Concert Hall, 129 West 67th Street. Tickets: \$25; \$20, students/seniors. Purchase at KaufmanMusicCenter.org/MCH, (212) 501-3330.



PROCLAMATION cont.

Getting to Grace: Moments of Metamorphosis

The women of BRC are invited to participate in **Marble Church's Women's Ministry Retreat**. Join Rev. Kirsty DePree, Nina Frost, Lisa Anderson and Sr. Carol Perry as we explore the transformational power of God's grace. On this retreat, we'll keep company with Christ in song, prayer, laughter, sisterhood and stories, to celebrate our "moments of metamorphosis". Finding our God-given wings within, we can emerge stronger, blessing the sacred journey ahead with courage, faith and grace. What joy it will be to see each other soar!

The weekend consists of Prayer and Worship services, a keynote talk, workshops, movement classes and free time to enjoy the beautiful grounds.

**Friday, March 11
through Sunday, March 13**
at the Dolce Basking Ridge
(300 N. Maple Ave, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920)

Check-in begins at 4:00 PM on Friday
Welcome Reception from 6:00-8:00 PM
Retreat concludes after
worship on Sunday morning

Early Bird pricing—ends Feb 4!

- Single Room for two nights:
\$420 per person, \$460 after Feb 4
- Shared Double Room (two beds) for two nights: \$300 per person, \$340 after Feb 4



All rooms feature luxury bedding, private bath and wifi. Pricing includes programs, materials, and Saturday breakfast through Sunday breakfast (4 meals). Payment plans are available.

For more information or to register visit <http://www.marblechurch.org/connect/ministries/women/> and click on the link in the Upcoming Events box.

If you have questions, please contact Anna Nugent or (212) 686-2770, ext. 216

Do you have information to share in the March Beacon?

If so, please submit your completed articles or photos to Barb Pavlicek (bjpmay1998@aol.com) and Sarah Hong (brcl832@verizon.net) **no later than Monday, February 22.**

Thank you for your attention to the deadline so that we can continue to publish the Beacon by the 1st of each month!

We want your voice to be heard!

In addition to publishing information in the Beacon we would love to have a more active **Parish Blog**. Go online to www.blawenburgchurch.com and read what's posted and add your comments! And if you have a reflection or story you'd like to share, please send it to Dave Cochran (davidc99@aol.com) or Sarah.

Consistory Highlights

Meeting of Monday, January 18, 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).

There is a lot going on in our church and our teams are hard at work with their many responsibilities. We thank all those who serve our church on its teams.

- The Search Team is ready to post the church profile and is accepting applications
- Evelyn Cochran will receive the Lay Recognition Award from the Synod at a dinner on April 8, 2016.
- Worship supply preachers are working out well, and we have booked a variety of preachers through May, including at least one per month from Marble Collegiate.
- A Planned Giving Team has been working with Marble Collegiate and the RCA to develop a program for our church.
- A person was approved to scan our property with an electronic device. Any artifacts found will be given to the church. This is a voluntary project.
- The Rummage Sale will be on April 15 and 16
- On February 14, we will dedicate the new sound system to the memory of Maitland Van Nostrand.
- Family Worship and Breakfast will resume on February 7 and will meet the first Sunday of each month through June.
- A Care Team is being re-vitalized by Barb Reid and Chip Parmele with the purpose of helping members and friends of the church and the community meet their needs and address their concerns.
- Pot luck luncheons will be held on Feb. 14 and March 13.
- The properties is looking into getting hand rails installed at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Contribution Statements

Thank you for all of your contributions during the 2015 Fiscal Year. In addition to paying for the daily upkeep of the church, we were able to support many wonderful programs and missions. Contribution statements were mailed out on Thursday, January 28. If you did not receive a statement (for tax purposes) or you believe the information is incorrect please don't hesitate to contact Sarah in the church office. And Thank You to everyone who has pledged for 2016—we look forward to another wonderful year!



Church Directory Update!

FRIENDS & MEMBERS -- By the end of February we hope to be printing new copies of our church directory. **Please update your contact information** on the print-out in the back of the sanctuary or send Sarah an email (brc1832@verizon.net). We definitely want emails and cell phone numbers and BIRTHDAYS! Even if you think we already have the correct info, send it anyway! If you'd prefer not to have some of this information publicized please just make note and we'll keep it on file in the office but not print it in the directory. THANKS!

SARAH'S OFFICE HOURS

MON 8:30 to 12
TUES 8:30 to 4:30
WED OFF
THUR 8:30 to 4:30
FRI OFF

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Blawenburg Reformed Church

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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.

FEBRUARY Summary of Dates

(see articles for more details)

Thursday, Feb 4

10 AM—Communications Team Meeting

Friday, Feb 5

5:30 PM—BVS Soup with Siblings

Sunday, Feb 7

8:32 AM—Family Worship & Breakfast (p 5)

10 AM—Communion Sunday; Scout Sunday (p 2)

Wednesday, Feb 10—Ash Wednesday

11:30 AM—Worship at Princeton Seminary (p 1)

6:15 PM—Worship at Marble Church (p 9)

Thursday, Feb 11

3:15 PM—Ribbon Cutting at Dina's Dwellings (p 7)

Sunday, Feb 14

10 AM—Worship / Sound System Dedication (p 1)

11:30 AM—Pot Luck Luncheon (p 3)

Monday, Feb 15

7:30 PM—Consistory Meeting

Wed, Feb 17

7:30 AM—Men's Breakfast (p 5)

Monday, Feb 22

Deadline for March Beacon materials!

Thursday, Feb 25

Last Day of Painters' Paradise Exhibit (p 9)

Sunday, Feb 28

3 PM—Crawford House Soup Making (p 7)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

10 Tom & Lisa Hunt

WEEKLY EVENTS

Worship Sundays @10AM
Bible Study Tuesdays
@10AM in CH Library
AA Meeting Tuesdays
@6:30PM in CH Basement

PLAN AHEAD

March 1—RSVP for Lay Recognition Dinner (p 3)
March 11-13—Marble's Women's Retreat (p 10)
March 13—Pot Luck Lunch
March 15—Mary & Martha
March 16—Men's Breakfast
April 8—Lay Recognition Dinner at The Imperia (p 3)
April 15-16—Annual Rummage Sale (p 9)

More events and meetings online!
www.blawenburgchurch.org/calendar