

Blawenburg Beacon

Blawenburg Reformed Church

Serving God and the Community Since 1832



Meet the Consistory

In the Reformed Church in America (RCA), Jesus Christ is the head of the church. The RCA has named three offices: Minister, Elder, and Deacon. All are equal and all working together represent Christ. The Congregation chooses Elders and Deacons to work with the Minister to do Christ's work on The Consistory. At Blawenburg we have four Elders and four Deacons on Consistory who typically serve two or four years.

The Consistory is charged with coordinating the life of the church and ensuring that worship, education, mission, and care happen. A faithful Consistory demonstrates four characteristics: 1) The Call of Christ - service on Consistory and the ordination and installation that goes with it should show the inner call of Christ, echoed by the congregation. 2) The Authority of Christ - working humbly together, the members of Consistory discern the will of Christ through discussion, prayer, Scripture, and worship. 3) The Servanthood of Christ - the Consistory is called together from those serving Christ, showing Christ's teaching that those who lead must serve, and enabling the Church to serve as well. 4) The Mission of Christ - the Consistory, and indeed the whole Church, exist for a purpose - to proclaim the Gospel, seek reconciliation, and engage in servant ministry.

Those serving on Consistory are human and fallible, and in the vows of office ask God's help to properly fulfill this call.

The Deacons



Lee Bekir is serving the second year of his second term as a deacon. His fellow Consistory members chose him to be Chair of the Deacons. He is a member of the Communications Team and reports to Consistory on their behalf. He is well versed in all things technical, and Barb R. owes him a debt of gratitude! Lee also provides special and beautiful music to our services.



Barb Reid is just beginning her first term. She attends the Blawenburg Village School Board meetings and reports to Consistory. She teaches Bible to the children of the pre-school. Barb has been the Church Administrator for over six years. She serves on the Communications, Finance, and Worship Teams.

Spring 2025

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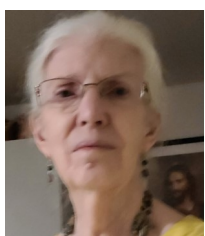
office@

blawenburgchurch.org

Meet the Consistory, cont'd.



Laura Warren is serving the second year of her first term. She is the liaison to the Cemetery Team and attends their meetings when she is able. She is a member of the choir. She also enhances our services by providing beautiful solos and duets on occasion. Laura supports the Missions Team by helping to prepare lunches for SHIP each and every time we undertake this project.



Gina Williams was just reinstalled to her second term. She is a member of the Worship Team and serves as its liaison to Consistory. She makes sure that there are ushers at each service. She is a member of the choir, and occasionally gifts us with beautiful solos. Together with Laura Warren, she sometimes provides lovely duets.

The Elders



Nancy Curtis is serving the second year of her first term. She is the liaison to the Care Team. She is also heading up our Adult Vacation Bible School this summer. Most Sundays, Nancy can be found in the pulpit here at BRC. She has stepped in and is doing an exemplary job while we are looking for an interim pastor.



Sonya Hunt filled an unexpired term as Elder last year, and is just beginning her own second term. She serves on the Cemetery, Finance, and Missions Teams, and is the liaison to Consistory for the Missions Team. One of Sonya's greatest gifts to the church is the care that she provides to those who can't always be in church. We are very blessed that she has this gift.

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Beacon Editors

Barbara Pavlicek
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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - 8am - 1pm
Tuesday - 8am - 1pm
Wednesday - 8:00- 1pm
Thursday - 8:am- 1pm
Friday - 8am - 12pm

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Meet the Consistory, cont'd.



Sam Prince was just reinstalled to his second term. He is the chair of the Finance Team and reports to Consistory on the very important work that they do. Sam can be found at the back of the sanctuary every third Sunday or so operating Zoom so that those who can't attend church in person can participate. He is also a member of the choir, and until he was joined by Ben Van Haitsma, he was often the only bass. He is also known to bless us with solos on occasion, especially around Christmas.



Mark Smith has been on this Consistory the longest, and he wears many hats. He is Vice President, a role that took on new meaning and added responsibility when Pastor Jeff Knol, President of Consistory, left in January. Along with Barb Pavlicek, Mark is our delegate to Classis. He is the chair of the Technology Team, was instrumental in setting up Zoom, and is one of its operators. As Vice President, he is also the chair of the Personnel Team. Mark can also be found in the BRC pulpit on occasion.



Consistory Installation and Reinstallation - June 22
Dawn Alpaugh, Classis Minister (center) presided.



A visit with Ginny Miller - from left: Jennifer Beachell, Ginny's daughter, Linda, Jean Beachell, Ginny, Ethel Terhune



Four generations of Van Nostrands - From left: Barb, her son, TJ (holding Vivienne), Bernice, Nancy, her grandson Miles, and daughter Caitlyn (holding Sloane)

Special Interest

Birthdays

July

- 2 Kevin Clancy
- 12 Lisa Hunt
- 16 Adelaide Blodgett
Mark Smith
- 20 Cheryl Miller
- 21 Palmer White
- 24 Ronell Lewis
- 25 Preetham Prince
- 27 Pete Weiland

August

- 6 Anna Bekir
Sue Perkins
- 11 Nancy Meyer
- 18 Barbara VanLiew
- 19 Tom Hunt
- 21 Pam Bainbridge
- 22 Bala Krishnan
- 24 Andrea Eberly
Ophelia Lewis
- 26 Akemi Pugliese
- 31 Rick White

September

- 8 Peggy Querec
- 15 Ginny Doremus
- 25 David Curtis
- 28 Jean Beachell
Meg Osander

October

- 2 Maxwell Blodgett
- 3 Flora Blodgett
- 14 Mimi Coffey
- 23 Evelyn Cochran
- 25 Jeff Knol

Barb and Pete Antoniewicz Visit Family in South Korea



Barb and her granddaughter, Lucy, are eating one of South Korea's staples - noodles.



Lucy, Andrew, and Pete built a sand castle .



The Haenyeo, the diving women of Jeju Island, are looking for shellfish, seaweed, and other seafood.



Yaksa-Yeorae is the medicine Buddha. People go to her to be healed.



Barb and her grandchildren are at the Cheonjeyeon Waterfall.



Barb and Pete form a heart over the tea leaves at the Tea Garden.

Pulpit Supply This Spring

We are truly blessed!



Nancy Curtis on March 9



Mark Smith on March 30



We welcomed Classis Minister Dawn Alpaugh to the pulpit on May 18.

Worship—continued

Palm Sunday - April 13

It is our tradition to process with palms during our opening hymn, *All Glory, Laud and Honor*.



Nancy C. leads the procession.



Nancy M. (what a smile!), followed by Bernice, Barb A., Sonya, and Elmi



Laura (again with a smile!), followed by Angie

Worship—continued

Easter Sunday - April 20



Members of the congregation donated flowers in honor and in memory of loved ones. They were beautifully arranged by Jean Beachell. We are so blessed to have her amongst us.



Ben Van Haitisma was our liturgist.



Nancy delivered a joyful Easter message. A few guest worshipers sat close to the front and will return when they are back in the area. They enjoyed our service!



Led by organist Kevin Daly, the choir lifted up their voices in a glorious anthem, *The Risen Christ*.

From left: Maria, Ben, Gina, Laura, Bernice, Barb A

Worship—continued

Pentecost Sunday - June 8

Members of our congregation read Acts 2:1-4 in different languages as we celebrated the fulfillment of God's promise to send the Holy Spirit.



Wendy Herbert was our liturgist.



Mark Smith read in Greek.



Joe Pavlicek read in Croatian.



Yuri Pugliese read in Spanish



Rita Das read in her Indian dialect as her grandson, Karanveer, stood by to lend his support.



Sam Prince read in Tamil.

Fellowship

A Time for Fellowship on Easter Morning



From left: Alan Querec, Hilde Lewis, Bob Lewis, Bob's son, Mike, Peggy Querec, Elmi Hill,



David Curtis, Alan Taback (looking very dapper in his red hat), Ben Van Haitsma, Nancy Curtis



Alan had a rapt audience.
Gina joined the group at the head of the table.



The women of Mary and Martha celebrated the birthdays of these beautiful women, (Hilde, Sonya, Emma).



The flowers that adorned the sanctuary on May 4 were given in memory of Buddy Cavanaugh by his family. It is clear that this beautiful handiwork is Jean Beachell's.



The happy (and beautiful) husband and wife-to-be



Mark asks Ben and Maria to hold hands as he prays with them.

Memorial Service for Don Terhune



Rev. Chris Heitkamp delivers the message.



Don's daughter, Esther, has lovely memories of her father.



Don's oldest grandchild, Arden, speaks as all of his grandchildren look on.



Fond memories of Don



Don's beloved '50 Ford

Blawenburg Village School

Blawenburg Village School

PO Box 153, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

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info@blawenburgvillageschool.com



Graduation - June 13



Kindergarten Class of 2025



Mrs. Wright and a Blossom graduate.



Someone is happy!



Nancy, Bernice, Caitlyn with her preschool graduate, Miles, husband Matt (holding Sloane), Matt's mother, Eileen

Missions

Bikes for the World - May 10

This year the bikes are destined for Sierra Leone and Madagascar.



Scouts at work dismantling bikes for shipment



A bike donor is at the registration table.

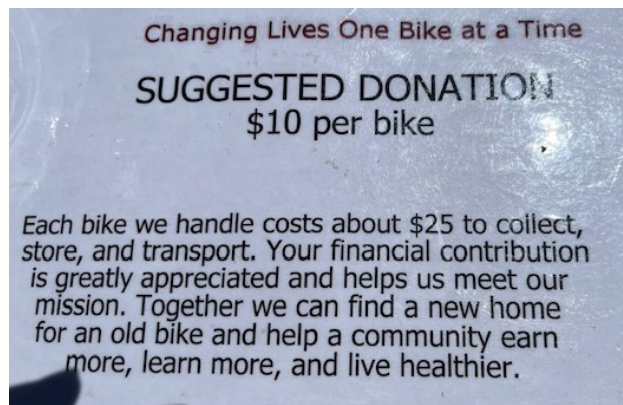
Barb A and Crystal (the daughter of Blawenburg's postmistress, La) take information and accept financial donations. Crystal earned credit for her high school service club.



About 104 bikes were donated.



These bikes are loaded on the truck for the first leg of the trip.



People were generous with their donations.

Missions—continued



May 2025

Two answers are ready to be received by a family who has been praying.

Two beautiful twin girls have been given up by their biological mother for Setshabelo Family and Child Services (SFCS) to find a forever family.

The mother of two came to a difficult decision and chose to give up her newly born twin daughters for adoption by another more financially and emotionally capable family. And so, after their birth, the mother declared to the staff at Botshabelo Hospital that she would like help in giving the children up for adoption.

Our adoption team at SFCS was then contacted by the staff at the hospital to try and counsel her as well as to assess her living conditions. Furthermore, investigate if the father was in the picture to take the children. The father was not found.

In the end, our two beautiful angels have been placed under temporary care at the House of Hope, and our team is in search of a forever family for them.

They have been blessed with beautiful names, which are Karabo and Onkarabile, meaning “Answer” and “He has answered me.” We pray that they will indeed be the answer to a forever family looking to love two children.

It is your support that makes it possible for the SFCS staff to continue to support families and provide care for vulnerable and orphaned children in Botshabelo, SA. Thank you!



Missions—continued



**American
Red Cross**

New Jersey Region
209 Fairfield Road
Fairfield, NJ 07004
Redcross.org/nj

June 3, 2025

Blawenburg Reformed Church
PO Box 266, 424 Route 518
Blawenburg, NJ 08504

Dear Red Cross Donor:

Thank you very much for Blawenburg Reformed Church's remarkable gift of \$2,000.00 on 4/7/2025 to the American Red Cross to support people impacted by wildfires in California in 2025. In the wake of these heartbreaking fires that have torn through thousands of homes, Blawenburg Reformed Church's generosity allows us to care for wildfire survivors in their time of greatest need and beyond.

Powered by donors like Blawenburg Reformed Church, dedicated Red Cross volunteers can provide safe refuge, warm meals, health and mental health care, financial assistance, and sorely needed comfort to people who've fled devastating blazes. What's more, Blawenburg Reformed Church's thoughtful contribution allows us to stay the course long after the wildfires are gone, helping survivors not only in the immediate aftermath of these life-changing disasters but for as long as they need us, rebuilding their homes and their lives.

Thank you once again for Blawenburg Reformed Church's compassionate commitment to California residents affected by wildfires in 2025. Together, we are making a meaningful difference for wildfire survivors facing profound loss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosie Taravella".

Rosie Taravella
Chief Executive Officer
New Jersey Region

Run with Rotary - April 27



Peggy, Nancy, and Barb, before the ramble



Rita's daughter-in-law, Aman, her sons Karanveer and Ranveer, Laura, Peggy, Nancy M, Barb P, and Rita



Barb and Laura are ready to roll.

Events—continued

Run with Rotary, cont'd.



Two beautiful smiles from two beautiful ladies!



We won the "Community Spirit" award.



Nancy, Laura, and Barb R wish Sam well before his run.

Blawenburg Church Cemetery

Members of Boy Scout Troop 46 placed flags on the graves of 75 veterans in the Blawenburg Cemetery on May 24. Members of the Hillsborough VFS were on hand to guide them.

Here at BRC, we very much appreciate the service of the honored soldiers, the men of the VFW, and the work of our sponsored Boy Scout Troop #46. Also, thanks to our Cemetery Team for arranging to have this done and for taking pictures.



The scouts, their leaders, and members of the VFW.



The veterans gave the scouts very specific instructions concerning the placement of the flags.



This former soldier is looking at the grave of a fellow veteran.



The scouts and their leaders pay their respects.