FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Greetings to all who call on He who is the Light of the world! “Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory and always causes us to triumph through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

I pray this note find you “prosperous and in good health, even as your soul prospers.” God has been so good! There are a number of things that God is doing at Beloved St. John and I am excited to share them with you.

Recently, we were blessed to have our annual Spring “outreach thrust”. This is our church wide attempt to fulfill the great commission. Jesus said, “go ye therefore and teach all nations”, “go into the hedges and highways and compel men and women to come.” We get out into the community and share our faith in a Living God to a lost and dying world. Nearly seventy souls surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ. Praise God! While I am praising God for Outreach Ministry, let me give a shout out to Deacons Clarence Banks and Larry Ellison. Every Tuesday they lead a team into the streets to talk to men and women about faith in Christ. Every Tuesday they win nearly seventy souls snatching them from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.

Another blessing we received at the hand of God is a step in the fulfillment of our vision to provide housing and educational facilities in our community. We have purchased the property at 4600 Old York Rd. Certainly, when you look at this property, one can tell we have much work to do...We still need your prayers and financial support to complete this project. Great thanks to Bro. Leon Hawes for his diligence in getting this deal done.

One of the most awesome blessings we’re thanking God for is the installation of our new video screens and projectors. This is the fulfillment of a vision God gave us and we have talked about over the past seven years. God has brought it to pass. To God be the Glory!

God is truly blessing us at Beloved St. John. With that said, I know there are those among us who are experiencing tough times and difficult circumstances. To all of my Father’s children that are going through, keep holding on to God’s unchanging hand. I am praying for you, and your change is about to come! Remember “the blessings of the Lord make rich and add no sorrow.” So keep holding on until your blessing comes.

Gratefully yours,

Pastor Clement M. Lupton, III

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR FIRST LADY

Praise the Lord! I truly thank God for the opportunity to share with you once again.

I want to briefly share with you regarding “forgiveness.” One definition of forgiveness is to cancel or remit; to refrain from inflicting a punishment. The Lord woke me up very early one morning, as He usually does, and ministered to me about the unforgiveness that I had in my heart. I did not realize it. One person in particular had hurt me so many times over the years but I was not aware that I was unforgiving toward her in my heart.

Ephesians 5:32 tells us to forgive each other just as Christ forgave us. That is a “tall order.” Christ forgave us and continues to forgive us on a daily basis without regard to the fact that we DO NOT DESERVE HIS FORGIVENESS. The Word of God tells us, “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” The Word of God also says, “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” We are not entitled to live in a state of unforgiveness. We all have been hurt and disappointed in life but that does not give us a license to hold people as hostages in our heart. Christ forgives us when we ask for forgiveness, therefore we must do the same. Even in instances when we’re hurt and the person(s) continues on without acknowledging what they have done or said, we have a mandate to forgive. God’s command to forgive has nothing to do with the individual(s) who injured us. We have a command to obey His Word.

When we pray we have to ask God to forgive. We have to pray for a heart of forgiveness. Some of us were violated either sexually, physically or mentally and do not have the strength to forgive those violators. But God is able. In order to forgive we must daily walk according to God’s Word. When the enemy attempts to bring those incidents back to our mind we must quote God’s Word and stand on it. The power to forgive is not found in a self-help book or seminar, that is temporal. God’s Word is everlasting. He said His Word is forever settled in heaven!

Evangelist Brenda Lupton
Editor’s Reflections

We have to admit in the midst of our problems we sometimes fall short of God’s call for us to walk in spiritual maturity. For in the midst of our battles we can easily become self-centered. Our call to honest fellowship with one another in love is lost in our own selfish heart’s desires. Our natural tendencies can prevent us from true fellowship with one another. As described in Ephesians 4, we are urged to stop and examine our heart, to take inventory of the practical application of taking off and putting on. When I think of this directive, I’m reminded of how really skillful some of us are in putting on garments that cover our physical body rather than our spiritual mind.

It’s interesting how we take our time and consideration in adorning our outer man in fine attire. We are careful to find the color and patterns of choice, the latest fads in clothing and even spend frivolously on name brand items. Yes, some of us even connect who we are on how fashion forward we can be. Whether this describes you or me, we have to admit man’s heart is full of lustful and selfish desires that focus on ourselves rather than others. So on Sunday morning when the word of God spoke through Ephesians 4, we were urged to take a look at what exactly we’re taking off and putting on with a spiritual perspective.

Paul urged the church of Ephesus to walk according to whom they were called. Just as they were told then, we are reminded today that Jesus paid the ultimate price for us, and there’s a certain way we should present ourselves. Taking heed to the spirit of our mind, we are called to clothe ourselves by putting on righteousness and true holiness in the likeness of Jesus Christ. Taking off garments of lying, speaking the truth in love and getting rid of anger are the skills we need to build up one another. Poignantly said, “Anyone can tear someone down, but it takes skill to build someone up”!

I realized then as I listened to the message that we need to take true inventory of our heart so that we will not destroy our brother or sister due to our sinful nature rooted in pride. The emotion of anger when meditated on, can become bitter. “Anger that holds contempt, despises and ridicules a person, puts them down and tramples on a person is not the Spirit of God.”

We are called to an honest fellowship with one another; walking in camaraderie with our brothers and sisters building each other in love. By taking off the old nature of man, we can put away selfish pride and put on love for one another.

Lord help us to take heed in what we’re clothed in each day,
As we battle to grow more in your likeness.

Sister Karen Wilkins
A special message from StopBullyingNow.gov:

We are excited to introduce you to a revitalized www.stopbullying.gov!

Building on the momentum started a year ago by the Obama Administration and relaunched in partnership with the Department of Education, the new site emphasizes action steps individuals can take to prevent and stop bullying in their schools and communities. It also features easy-to-use tools and resources for community leaders, young people and families, including:

- How to recognize the warning signs and when to take action
- Tips to prevent bullying before it starts
- How to implement strategies for intervention
- Ways to share your community's resources, policies or strategies to prevent and address bullying
- Information on bullying laws in your state

We hope the new site will help you share ideas and start discussions about the role you can play in preventing bullying in your community. Show your support on your own website with our widgets and badges and subscribe to email updates to find out about new content on the site. We also encourage you to consider submitting your materials for inclusion in our resource database. You can also follow StopBullying.gov on Twitter or Facebook for more information on how to take action.

Please also look for the yellow boxes at the bottom of most pages. This is our new user feedback tool, which you can use to tell us whether you found the page useful or not. You can also share your ideas for how to improve it. We hope you enjoy the new site, and look forward to hearing your feedback on how we can continue to support your work on bullying prevention and intervention.

In addition, all of the Federal government agencies' bullying prevention efforts - including HRSA's Stop Bullying Now! Campaign - have been transitioned to one central location. We encourage you to replace the Stop Bullying Now! logo with the new StopBullying.gov logo and swap the HRSA URL (www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov) for StopBullying.gov if you provide links from your site.

Sincerely,

The StopBullying.gov Editorial Board, with representation from:

U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Including:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Health Resources and Services Administration

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
JOIN US AT OUR
CHURCH PICNIC

Saturday, August 11, 2012 • 12Noon - 7PM
AT MERMAID LAKE, BLUE BELL, PA

Enjoy Swimming Pools,
Water Slides,
Basketball Courts,
Volleyball Courts, Softball Fields, Tennis Courts
AND MORE!

Music by DJ Praze

Ticket Cost:
Adults - $28.00
Ages 2-8 - $16.00
Under 2 - Free

FREE TRANSPORTATION

BELOVED ST. JOHN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH
4541 N. Broad St. At Belfield Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19140
Rev. Clement M. Lupton III, Sr. Pastor
BELOVED ST. JOHN
EVANGELISTIC CHURCH

FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

Sunday, May 6, 2012
Everyone is invited to join us!

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1

Catered Refreshments served After the 7:45 and 11:00am services

Acknowledgement For The Largest Family Attending!
***Giveaways***

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