

*1st Lady
Rev. Brenda
Lupton*

*Pastor
Clement M.
Lupton, III*



1996

2021

25th
ANNIVERSARY

**Celebrating 25 Years
Of Pastoring**

Beloved St. John Evangelistic Church
4541 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19140



THE REDEEMER NEWSLETTER HONORING PASTOR CLEMENT M. LUPTON, III AND FIRST LADY, REV. BRENDA LUPTON'S 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2021

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



We Are Celebrating 25 Years Together!

Greetings Friends,

As a young impressionable fourteen-year-old child, I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit speak clearly to me a verse of scripture I had never previously read. It was (Luke 19:17). "...Well done, thou good servant: because thou has been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over many." I did not know exactly what this meant to me personally, but I began to feel a strong leading or urging to preach the Gospel. I had such a thirst and hunger for

God that I enrolled into a minister's preparatory program to start developing my preaching gift and ministry call.

As the Lord would have it, only one year later, the late Pastor of Beloved St. John Baptist Church, Rev. Matt Yancy, Jr. would ask my Great Aunt Marie Rollins to ask me if I would come and preach a youth night. I told my late Aunt no, I was not ready, but she insisted because she told me she could see the "Hand of God" on my life and God had called me to preach. It was a cold February evening in 1978 I went to Beloved St. John and preached "**If You Make Your Bed Hard, You Have To Lay In It.**" My first sermon needless to say, I hardly knew what I was talking about. But, that was the beginning of a long and storied relationship between Beloved St. John Church and I. The Pastor would later ask me to become Jr. Pastor at age sixteen. I declined because I knew I needed more training and I was in Youth Ministry Leadership at Deliverance Evangelistic Church.

Throughout the years I was always invited back to preach at Beloved St. John; youth nights, joy nights and various anniversaries. After Pastor Yancy went home to be with the Lord, I received a call from the leaders of Beloved St. John Church asking if I would consider being a candidate for their open pastorate. I was so deeply entrenched with my work at Deliverance, I had become Pastor over worship services and an Executive Board member. I told the Beloved St. John leadership I was not available to be a candidate but I would come and preach if necessary. They invited me to come and preach and insisted I become a candidate for pastor. Well, as they say, the rest is history. I preached the month of August 1996 at Beloved St. John and was elected Pastor on November 3, 1996. I can not believe this is now 25 years later.

As I reflect on these 25 years my wife and I have served at Beloved St. John, we have been tremendously blessed by the Hand of the Lord. We have worked with some of the most wonderful and precious believers in all of the Body of Christ over the years. Some are now home with Jesus, but Brenda and I know we could not have made it without their prayerful support.

We worked diligently repairing our former worship site at 26th and Lehigh Avenue. Upon completion, we saw God move us to our current worship site and immediately installed an elevator. God blessed us to burn the mortgage on our building in just a few short years! To God be the Glory! It would take this entire article and more to enumerate all of the wonderful blessings God has given us and all of the tremendous miracles God has performed for us over these 25 years. I am completely humbled as I look back and can only say, "**Nobody but Jesus!**" We really, really have something to shout about!

I want to praise God for all He has done for us though the years. I want to thank all of the members of Beloved St. John Evangelistic Church for being a part of the miracle on Broad Street. Thank God for 25 years!

And guess what?...We haven't seen anything yet!

Blessings,
Pastor Clement Lupton, III

IN THIS EDITION

From the Pastor's Desk	2
A Letter from the Editor	3
Beloved St John Church History	4
Energy Saving Tips & Community Resources	5
Covid 19 Updates	6-8
Save the Date	9

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

To our BSJ Church Family,

What a year it has been!

As we continue to navigate these uncharted waters of a Global Pandemic, one thing for sure is...GOD IS GOOD! He has kept us and has blessed us beyond measure because through it all, we are still here! Many did not make it, so we are blessed and give God ALL the glory!

We are also blessed to have such an anointed man and woman of God who lovingly cares for the flock through prayers, counseling, encouraging, preaching and teaching the Word of God, and so much more!

As we continue to celebrate our Pastor and First Lady's 25th Pastoral Anniversary through the end of this year, let us show our love for them by giving! You can give by texting **GIVEBSJEC to (833) 322-4684**. You can use our **[PushPay App](#)** by downloading it to your phone. You can give via **Cashapp - \$givebsjec**, or you can show your love in whatever way the Lord leads you, but *please* let us show our love in action!

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1Cor. 13:13

A Thank You To Our Pastor And First Lady

We thank God for leaders who are true examples of a man and woman of God that earnestly seeks to serve the Lord with all of their hearts and with spirits of excellence!

We do not take for granted your countless hours of labor done in love for this ministry, and your faithful dedicated service to God.

Pastor, you and First Lady are a gift from God, a blessing to our Beloved family and we love you very much!

Rev. Shree Hughes
Congregational Care Ministry and the BSJ Family

If you have news of importance, resources, or helpful suggestions for this newsletter that you would like to share, please see any member of the Congregational Care Ministry.



BELOVED ST JOHN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH HISTORY

Beloved St. John Evangelistic Church was founded in 1963 by Reverend James O. Taylor. Originally named St. John Baptist Church, our worship services were held in a home on the 2900 block of Thomas Street in Philadelphia. It was under the leadership of Reverend Matt Yancey that we located to 2601 Lehigh Avenue and changed our name to Beloved St. John Baptist Church.

In November 1996 the Lord brought about rapid change at BSJEC, beginning with the installation of Reverend Clement M. Lupton, III. Within the first five years of Pastor Lupton's leadership we changed denominations from Baptist to Evangelistic. In 1997, we were formally incorporated with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under our new and current name, Beloved St. John Evangelistic Church, receiving tax exempt status. Other highlights during this time include the establishment of nearly forty ministries, the creation of the church's first non-profit corporation, the Beloved St. John Community Development Corporation, the founding of the Beloved St. John Evangelistic Bible Institute, the first Unity in the Community Day, now in its 17th year, the inception of our first Radio Ministry, and the launch of BSJEC's Television Ministry with Time of Decision.

In the years that followed God continued to bless BSJEC. On December 5, 2004 we celebrated our first worship service in our current location at 4541 North Broad Street in Philadelphia. Only six years later, we held a Mortgage Burning Service to commemorate our paid off mortgage. New ministries, such as the HIV/AIDS Care Ministry and the Single Mother's Ministry were also added. In 2002, 2004 and 2014 we were recognized as the "Church of the Week" by the Philadelphia Tribune. Time of Decision, which can be seen on the ION Network, was expanded to five days a week, while the Radio Ministry added additional broadcasts. In 2009, Pastor Lupton was honored by the Philadelphia Council of Clergy with the "Measure of a Man" award. Our church building has also gone through major renovations and upgrades, including the addition of a brand new elevator in 2007, the installation of two large screens and projectors in 2012, new steps in 2014, a brand new heating system in 2015 and an upgrade to the cooling system in 2016.

With God's favor we have been able to establish strong relationships and minister to our members and also the community. We have developed various community partnerships, including those with the Mayor's Office of Philadelphia, the School District of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania State Senator Sharif Street, Pennsylvania State Representative Stephen Kinsey, Philadelphia City Councilwoman Cindy Bass, Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, and the Urban League of Philadelphia. We have also opened our doors to the community for numerous conferences, fairs, workshops, and seminars.

As we look toward the future, we are excited about the Lord's plans for us. In 2012, we purchased the properties at 4600 and 4602 Old York Road. These properties have since been razed in order to make way for The Beloved House, a neighborhood community center. In Spring 2019 we purchased 4536 Old York Road. It also marked the opening of the BSJEC Annex, located at 4538 Old York Road.

Today, BSJEC is a vibrant and active church. Since our inception more than fifty years ago, we truly have had a faith that will not quit. God has blessed tremendously! Many souls have come to Christ, many families have come together, and many lives have been changed. To God be the glory!

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

- Insulation. Install insulation in your attic to prevent heat loss. As hot air rises, so can your heating bill.
- Closing vents. Foundation vents, which are vents in your foundation or crawl space that allow outside air to circulate under the floor, should remain open in warm weather but closing them for the winter not only protects your plumbing but also prevents warm air loss.
- Caulking cracks around windows. By caulking any cracks around your windows or caulking the edges of door frames, warm air will be less likely to leak out.
- Plastic window coverings. Self-adhesive plastic window coverings can be purchased to put on windows and will help to stop cold from entering your home.
- Door sealer. A door sealer can be placed at the bottom of doors to keep cold air from flowing through the bottom where the door meets the floor.
- Thermostat settings. Lowering your thermostat at night or when you're out of the house to 65 degrees can reduce the cost of heating by 10 percent.

These tips and more weatherization information can be found at www.pgworks.com

Philadelphia Gas Works' (PGW) [Marketplace](#) is giving customers a new incentive to lower their energy consumption and reduce their home heating costs. New price reductions on smart thermostats available through the Marketplace, combined with an instant \$70 PGW rebate, make it more economical for PGW customers to purchase the energy-saving devices.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

PA 211: GET CONNECTED, GET HELP

If you need to connect with resources in your community, but don't know where to look, 211 is a great place to start. From help with a utilities bill, to housing assistance, after-school programs for kids, and more, you can **dial 211** or **text your zip code to 898-211** to talk with a resource specialist for free. Specialists will listen to your needs, and give you information on programs in your community that might be able to help.

Visit [211 website](#) to explore programs available in your community by categories such as expenses, housing, and food, or to learn more about how they can help.



Overview

In late December 2019, people in Wuhan, China began to get sick with a previously unknown pneumonia, marking the beginning of a new infectious disease, later identified as a new type of coronavirus – severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-COV-2). The disease the virus causes was named Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Impact

The U.S. case total is 43,417,209 million with just shy of 700,000 deaths and more than 32.9 million recoveries. According to the New York Times, at least 1 in 8 U.S. residents have been confirmed infected and at least 1 in 487 people in the country have died from COVID-19.

Variants

All viruses, including SARS-COV-2, the virus that causes COVID 19 change over time. It's normal for a virus to change when it replicates or makes copies of itself. These changes are called mutations. A virus with one or more new mutations (changes) is referred to as a variant of the original virus. As expected, multiple variants of SARS-COV-2 have been documented in the US and globally throughout the pandemic, such as the Alpha strain, Beta, and Gamma Strain.

Delta variant is now the predominant SARS-COV-2 variant in the US, accounting for more than 99% of COVID-19 cases.

CDC have said the risk of contracting Delta is 8 times higher and risk of hospitalization or death due to Delta is 25 times higher in the unvaccinated than the vaccinated.

It's estimated a person infected with the original COVID-19 strain can infect 2.5 other people. People infected with Delta may spread the virus to 3.5 - 4 other people.

The greater number of unvaccinated people in the community, the more opportunity COVID-19 can replicate and spread.

It's important to know that each member of the community contributes to the collective health of the community. The virus can only survive by finding new people to infect.



Vaccines

Each COVID 19 vaccine causes the immune system to create antibodies to fight the infection. Vaccines work to help develop immunity (body's ability to prevent disease) by imitating an infection. Once the imitation infection goes away, the body is left with a supply of memory cells that will remember how to fight the real disease in the future. Sometimes after receiving a vaccine, the imitation infection can cause minor but expected symptoms such as fever. It's important to point out that no vaccine is 100% effective. For example, we all know someone who have contracted the influenza (Flu) virus even after receiving their flu shot. In the US, the highly transmissible Delta variant is driving an uptick in COVID-19 cases, primarily among the unvaccinated. However, the good news that is being reported is that vaccines are effective against the virus.

There are currently three vaccines available in the US:

- ♦Pfizer/BioNTech 2 doses- recommended 12 years and older (being studied in children 5-11)
- ♦Moderna 2 doses- recommended for adults 18 years and older
- ♦Johnson & Johnson one/single shot -recommended for adults 18 years and older

The most important thing you can do to protect yourself (and others) from COVID-19 is to get fully vaccinated.

Data thus far has shown vaccines provide strong protection, especially against severe illness, hospitalization and death.

CDC is recommending “layered prevention strategies” that includes full vaccination and wearing face masks in public indoor settings.

Boosters

Most people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are relatively well protected from serious illness and death. But even highly effective vaccines often become less so over time. This may be in part due to the greater infectiousness of Delta as well as decreasing protection as time passes. Getting another dose of the vaccine several months after the first round, called a booster, may help to increase the vaccine's effectiveness.

Only people who have already been fully immunized with Pfizer 2 dose COVID-19 vaccine are eligible for a booster.

The booster would be a third dose of the same vaccine you received with the first two doses.

The FDA does not endorse a “mix-and-match” approach to vaccination boosters due to lack of evidence of giving a different vaccine than what was used for the initial vaccination

As of Friday, September 24, 2021, the following are CDC's latest guidelines on boosters.

CDC recommends:

- ♦ *people 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,*



- ◆ *people aged 50–64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,*
- ◆ *people aged 18–49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks, and*
- ◆ *people aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.*

[Learn More](#)

Resources

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
 CDC: [COVID Data Tracker](#)
 WHO: [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)
[WHO myth busters](#) addressing fake information about the virus
 Scientific American: [How Dangerous Is the Delta Variant, and Will It Cause a COVID Surge in the U.S.?](#)
 New York Times: [Just How Big Could India’s True Covid Toll Be?](#)
 Johns Hopkins University: [Mortality Analyses](#)
 Our World In Data: [COVID-19 Vaccinations Tracker](#)

The information on COVID 19 is fluid and continues to change rapidly. I recommend viewing the weekly situation reports from the World Health Organization (WHO) and CDC. You can also get updated information from Johns Hopkins University or www.Worldometers.info

Submitted by:

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SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

25th Pastoral Anniversary

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY
TO OUR PASTOR
& 1ST LADY**

Rev. Clement M.
Lupton, III
&
Rev. Brenda Lupton



BELOVED
St. JOHN
EVANGELISTIC CHURCH