

The Master's Message

The Newsletter of the Church of the Master

July/August, 2025

Virtual Adult Bible Study
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Saturday, 12:00

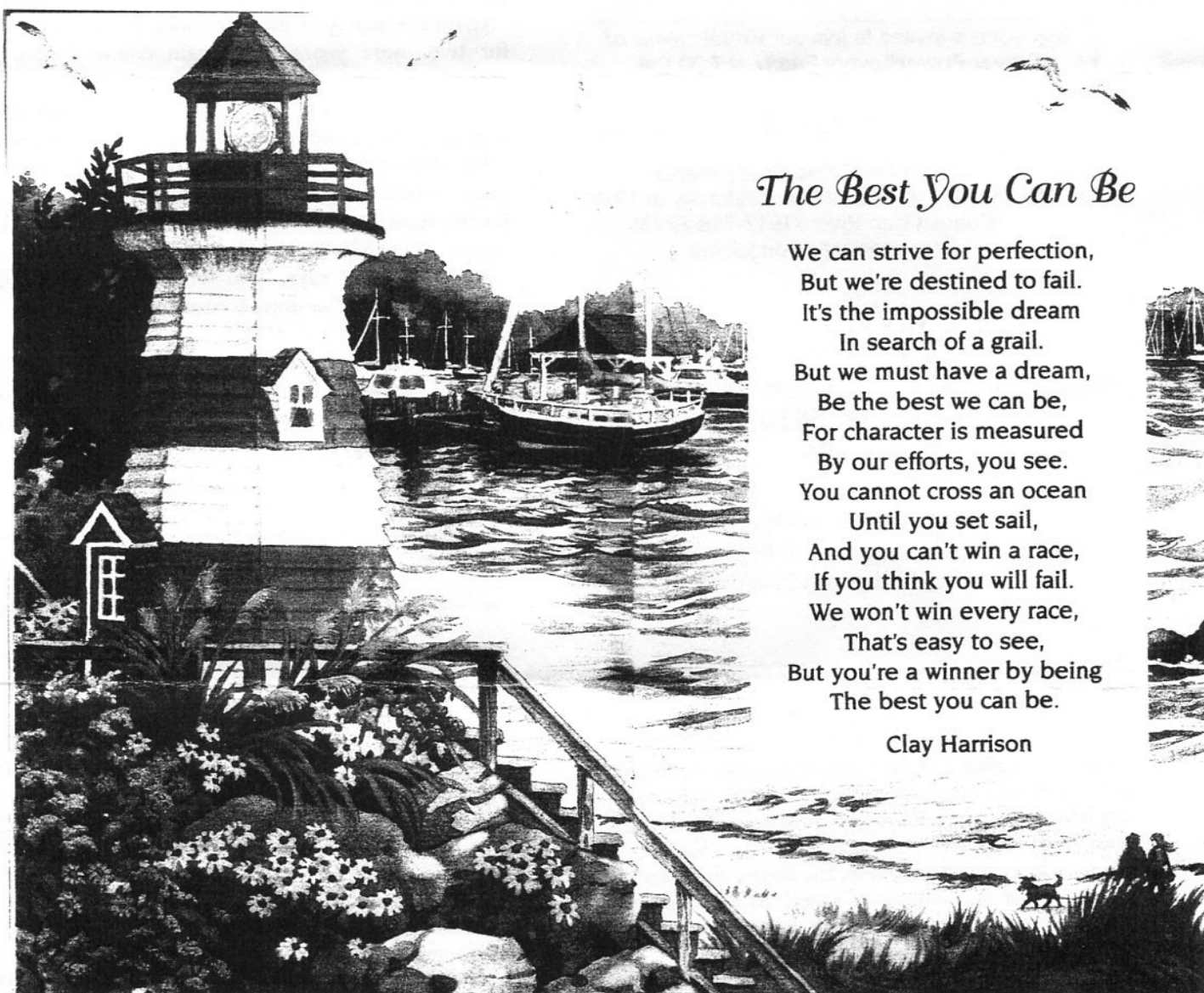
2783 Lafayette Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10465
718-597-6298

Sunday Worship
Sunday 11:00 am

cotm47@verizon.net

WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor



The Best You Can Be

We can strive for perfection,
But we're destined to fail.
It's the impossible dream
In search of a goal.
But we must have a dream,
Be the best we can be,
For character is measured
By our efforts, you see.
You cannot cross an ocean
Until you set sail,
And you can't win a race,
If you think you will fail.
We won't win every race,
That's easy to see,
But you're a winner by being
The best you can be.

Clay Harrison

• "A God wise enough to create me and the world I live in
is wise enough to watch out for me."

—Philip Yancey

SPECIAL DATES

- Independence Day, July 4th

News From the Pews



Continue praying for:
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,
Loretta Byrd, John Bruno,
Alice & Alex Rivera

Everyone is invited to join our virtual "**Hour of Prayer Power**" every Friday at 7:00 PM.
The conference call-in number is 605-475-4860,
code: 371231#

Our **Online Bible Study** meets
Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Saturday at 12:00.
Contact Ron Rivera (917-716-8273)
for information on joining



Beginning Sunday, July 8th,
our worship service will begin at 9:50 AM
with Praise and Prayer time.

A matter of perspective

Pastor and author T.D. Jakes tells of visiting a community in Africa where a woman from the local church welcomed him into her small home. Proud to have built the structure herself, she swept her arm toward the door — a blanket — as if inviting him into a mansion. She offered him a seat — on her bed — and graciously served a meal. As Jakes departed in a small plane, rain began falling. The pastor looked down to see his host dancing in gratitude.

He was struck by the contrast between his African host and many Americans, including himself. How often we let worries about our "small" house, lack of nice furniture or inability to serve gourmet food get in the way of welcoming friends or new acquaintances into our home. How often we view rain as an annoyance, complicating our day and depressing our mood. Meanwhile, this woman was eager to share her humble house and grateful for God's gift of moisture in her dry homeland.

CHURCH CHUCKLES

A man wants to become a monk. He goes to the local monastery and is brought to see the abbot. The abbot tells the man: "If you want to become a monk, first you must stay in a room alone for two years without speech. Then you will come out and tell me two words. This will show me whether you should be a monk."

The man stays alone and silent for two years, then comes before the abbot. The abbot nods at him and asks, "What do you wish to say?"

"Room cold," the man answers, hugging himself and shivering. The abbot shakes his head. "I'm sorry, but you need two more years."

Again the man goes into the room, alone, stays silent for two more years, and again comes before the abbot. The abbot says, "What can you tell me?" This time the man says, "Food bad." The abbot again shakes his head and tells the man, "Two more years."

The third time, the man says, "Bed hard." Back he goes for two more years. When he comes out for the fourth time and the abbot asks him, "What two words, my son?" The man says, "I quit."

And the abbot says, "No wonder. It's been eight years and all you've done is complain."

Pastor Smith had practiced the vows twice the night before. Yet, when the wedding came, the bride said: "God has prepared me for you and so I will ever strengthen, help, comfort and discourage you."



Our travel guide

There are two ways of traveling on the Continent. In the first, you do everything for yourself. You obtain your ticket, look after your luggage, get your seat in the carriage, ask at least three porters whether you are right, and, if you have an imperfect knowledge of the language, you have perpetually an uneasy sense that perhaps you are wrong.

There is another method of foreign travel. You employ a Tourist Agency, which obtains your tickets, sees to your comfort, gives you precise directions, provides you, where necessary, with a conductor, and at every terminus waits to greet you.

In this we have an apt illustration of the easier way of traveling to heaven. Be at rest in the indwelling and inworking of the Holy Spirit. Only see that he is not grieved, and he will see to all else.

—F.B. Meyer (1847-1929)

Brain Freeze

Ever wonder why it sometimes hurts your head when you eat ice cream a little too quickly? According to Johns Hopkins University, one theory is that when the roof of your mouth interacts with something cold – like ice cream – the blood vessels between your mouth and brain constrict and then rapidly open. The pressure from this causes cold neuralgia, or ice cream headache. One way to combat this freeze is to push your tongue to the roof of your mouth to help warm the area. Now, pass the ice cream!

Love thy neighbor

Bono, the lead singer of the Irish rock band U2, spoke in December, 2002, at a church in Lincoln, Nebraska, and at Wheaton College in Illinois. Saying forthrightly that he was a believer in God, he focused mainly upon Christ's challenge to his followers to minister to the poor. Quoting verses from Matthew 25:31-46, Bono said that there are 2,103 verses of Scripture pertaining to the poor. He pointed out that Jesus said we are to be judged by how we treat the poor. "Why is it," Bono asked, "that we seem to have forgotten this?"

"'Love thy neighbor' is not advice," he said. "It is a command."



Special
M • E • S • S • A • G • E

In our newsletters, we are sharing our financial reports with our readers so everyone is aware of our situation. The financial reports for May and June were not available for this newsletter.

Our 2nd quarter Classis Assessment was paid in June. If you are a member and haven't contributed your share (\$133 yearly per member, \$33.25 if you pay quarterly), please consider sending your payment to help us.

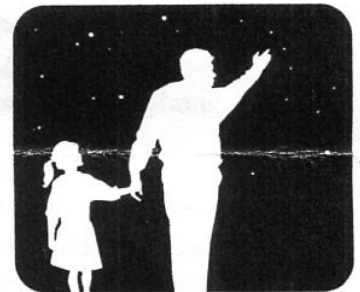
We're trying to cut corners as much as possible but we need the help of our members, former members and friends. **As a member, if you miss a week or two, please put your weekly offering in your envelope for that week and then bring those envelopes with you the next time you come to church. You may not be here for those weeks, but our expenses don't skip a week.**

Again, we thank our generous former members and friends who send us a donation, whether it's on a regular basis, occasionally during the year or during the holiday season. We really appreciate the donations, as well as hearing from you.

This side of heaven

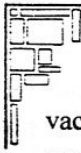
A little girl who'd grown up in the city spent some of her summer vacation out in the country. One starlit night, she and her dad stood gazing up into the sky without any harsh streetlights obstructing the view.

The girl, amazed by the sparkling view, exclaimed, "If heaven is so pretty on the wrong side, I wonder what it looks like on the right side!"





THOUGHTS
FROM
THE PASTOR



July brings long, hot summer days, fireworks, barbecues, picnics, school and family vacations. But, most of all, it brings us together to celebrate the one thing that makes us all proud to be an American, enjoying our hard fought and won freedoms. Each year, as our nation celebrates the Fourth of July or Independence Day, when the Colonies regarding themselves as thirteen newly independent sovereign states at war with and against British rule, at the Continental Congress, declared their independence with these words (Wikipedia):

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. (Declaration of Independence - July 4, 1776).

These words from the preamble of the Declaration of Independence were written over 200 years ago, but they still resonate with Americans everywhere. However, for far too many people they are aspirational at best and unfulfilled at worse given the recent rise in lack of civility, partisan rancor, discrimination, senseless violence, terrorism and intolerance that threatens our freedom and way of life.

Another great American, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, gave an address in 1941 that is known as his famous "Four Freedoms" State of the Union Speech, when America was about to enter into World War II. "Roosevelt insisted that people in all nations of the world shared Americans' entitlement to four freedoms: the *freedom of speech and expression*, the *freedom to worship God in his own way*, *freedom from want* and *freedom from fear*." (History.com/this-day-in-history).

I contend that all of these freedoms can be summarized in the greatest freedom of all! In the Gospel of John, Jesus, the Great Liberator, said "if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36). He is not concerned with whether we are first, second or third generation Americans, or whether we are recent immigrants, or the sons and daughters of immigrants, or siaves. For, God has no respect of persons and we are one in Christ Jesus.

As we prepare to celebrate our nation's Independence Day, let us remember to give thanks and praise to Jesus first and foremost for purchasing our freedom from sin by the shedding of his precious blood. Then, let us remember to thank God for all of our service men and women, and first responders who paid a dear price for our freedom—those who have given their lives fighting to protect our great nation. May God bless America the land of the free and the brave! Have a Happy and safe 4th of July!

Shalom to you,

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden. Pastor
Church of the Master



Reprinted from .
July, 2022

A very wonderful and special country

What a country this is! To my way of thinking, there is nothing like it anywhere in the world. I have visited many beautiful lands, but upon returning to the United States, there is always the feeling that Almighty God carved out here a very wonderful and special country. ...

We need to recount the stories of the great souls America has produced and who produced America. We need to tell and retell these stories beginning with the Pilgrim Fathers. Bibles under their arms, setting forth in little ships across a stormy sea, driven not by the winds that raged the Atlantic and caught the sails of their little boats, but by the mighty conviction that as sons of God no one could make slaves of them. ...

Something within drove them across trackless wastes to an inhospitable shore, where unhampered by the autocracy of men, they could worship God in all the dignity of free men.

We, too, need that spirit of freedom in our hearts. We need to recover the cleanness and manhood and power and might of the United States in our minds. We must reemphasize morality, decency and honesty. We need more of God and more of Jesus Christ. Deeply rooted in the American tradition are the sovereignty of God and the sacredness of human personality. Upon these two pillars rests American freedom.

—Dr. Norman Vincent Peale from his sermon "I Pledge Allegiance"

Equal in God's eyes

The faith of America's founders affirmed the sanctity of each individual. Every human life — man or woman, child or adult, commoner or aristocrat, rich or poor — was equal in the eyes of the Lord. It also affirmed the responsibility of each individual.

—Lady Margaret Thatcher

A driver's prayer

O Lord, into my hands you have entrusted an instrument of great power. Give me the grace to drive it with care for the lives that are my responsibility, and with thoughtfulness for all who share the roads. If I am careless, make me watchful, if I am rushed, give me patience, and in all things give me self-control. Amen.



Valued, no matter what

A speaker began his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. He asked the group of 200, "Who would like this \$20 bill?"

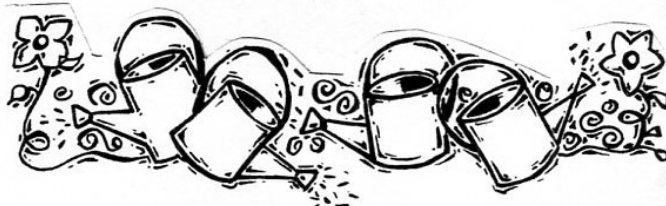
Most hands went up. He said, "I'll give this \$20 to one of you, but first let me do this." He crumpled up the \$20 bill then asked, "Who still wants it?" Most hands were raised again.

"Well," he continued, "what if I do this?" He dropped it and ground it into the floor with his shoe. He picked up the crumpled and dirty bill. "Now who still wants it?" Again the hands went into the air.

"My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it didn't decrease in value. It was still worth \$20.

"Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we're worthless.

"But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value in God's eyes. To Him, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to Him. Psalm 17:8 states that God will keep us 'as the apple of [His] eye.'"



Heaven bound

One Sunday morning during the children's sermon a preacher sat on the chancel steps with children of the congregation gathered around him.

"Believing that Jesus is your Savior is the way to get to heaven," the pastor told the kids. "Where would you like to go?"

"Heaven!" the children answered in unison. "And what do you have to be in order to get to heaven?" he asked, expecting them to answer "A Christian."

One little boy quickly blurted, "Dead!"



**Don't Take
a Vacation
from Church**