

The Master's Message

The Newsletter of the Church of the Master

September, 2023

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



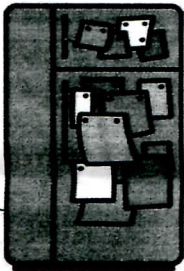
Grandparents Day

September 10th

THE AARP 'YUP, YOU'RE A GRANDPARENT' CHECKLIST

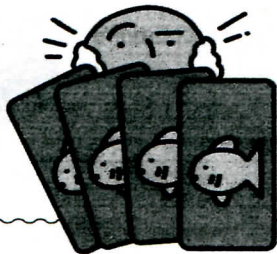
BY JOHN FICARRA

- The last two best sellers you read were *Good-night Moon* and *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*



- You can no longer remember what your refrigerator door looks like.

- You've had to brush up on the rules for *Go Fish* and *Candy Land*.



22 23 24
 25 27 28



- The "lucky numbers" you play in the lottery every week match a certain someone's birthday.

- You had to buy more digital storage space for the hundreds of photos you took—in the hospital nursery.



- Your weekly food shopping list includes staples for the grandkids.

- Your most prized possession is a piece of construction paper with some crayon scribbles and a few pieces of raw macaroni glued on it.



- You experience an indescribable melting feeling when that little hand reaches up for yours.

John Ficarra is the former editor in chief of *Mad* magazine.

SPECIAL DATES*

- Labor Day, September 4th
- Grandparents Day, September 10th
- Patriot Day, September 11th
- First Day of Autumn September 23rd

News From the Pews



Continue praying for:
 Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,
 Loretta Byrd, 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, September 10th, our worship service will return to 11:00 AM

The right thing

Potter Stewart, the former Supreme Court justice, defined ethics as "knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is the right thing to do."

CHURCH CHUCKLES

As my five-year-old and I were heading to McDonald's one day, we passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so I pointed and said to my son, "We should pray."

From the back seat I heard his earnest voice: "Dear God, please dont let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's!"

This sign was posted at a church nursery:

**"We shall not all sleep.
 But we shall all be changed."**

-1 Corinthians 15:51

The preacher's 5-yr-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. "Well, Honey," he bgan, proud that his daughter was so observant of ihs messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon."

"How come He doesn't seem to answer them?" she asked.

The joy of work

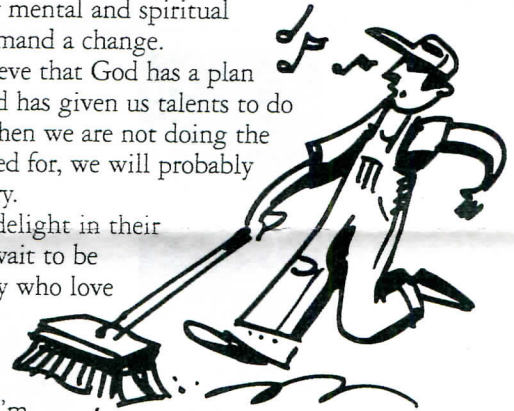
How do we know if we are doing the work we are meant (or called) to do? The clue is whether we feel joy when we carry out our daily duties. There is no joy, if we agonize daily because our particular laboring leaves us unfulfilled and restless. Our mental and spiritual health might demand a change.

Christians believe that God has a plan for our lives. God has given us talents to do certain work. When we are not doing the tasks we are suited for, we will probably be in some misery.

Workers who delight in their jobs can hardly wait to be productive. Many who love their work find joy in what they accomplish and

are able to say, "I'm glad that I'm able to serve God through my work."

—Charles Ferrell



(The following Prayer of Confession was part of our worship service on July 2nd. Rev. Hayden asked that it be reprinted in our next newsletter.)

O GOD, WE CONFESS TO YOU THAT YOUR PASSION FOR JUSTICE HAS NOT BEEN OUR OWN. WE TALK ABOUT JUSTICE AND DEMAND IT WHEN WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE BEEN WRONGED, BUT WE FAIL TO SEE THE BRUTALITY EXACTED ON OTHERS. WE FUME OVER THE DRIVER WHO CUTS US OFF IN TRAFFIC, BUT IGNORE THE MENTALLY ILL WHO ROAM OUR STREETS WITHOUT PROPER HEALTH CARE. WE COMPLAIN ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOR'S MUSIC BEING TOO LOUD WHILE INNOCENT LIVES ARE BEING LOST DAILY IN WARS AROUND THE WORLD. WE THINK WE HAVE BEEN ILL-USED BECAUSE THE PRICE OF GASOLINE FOR OUR VEHICLE IS SO HIGH WHILE MULTITUDES WALK WHEREVER THEY NEED TO GO. FORGIVE US FOR OUR SELF-CENTERED WAYS. OPEN OUR EYES TO THE SUFFERING AROUND US AND GIVE US THE POWER OF YOUR SPIRIT TO CONFRONT INJUSTICE AND EVIL WHEREVER WE FIND THEM AMEN.

Thoughts about Sept. 11

The preacher, Dr. Thomas Lane Butts, took his grandson to New York City in 2003. Dr. Butts took the boy to see where the World Trade Center had been. They were both emotionally affected by what they saw and what they remembered. Later the grandfather wrote:

"As we stood on the edge of that huge hole, we were suddenly struck by the realization that we were standing on and near the unidentified remains of some 3,000 victims. It was a solemn moment. It all came back! I was struck by two powerful emotions: profound sadness and profound anger. As tears welled in my eyes, I mumbled things which I hope my grandson did not hear."

Dr. Butts went on to write about our inability to understand the actions of the cruel-hearted perpetrators of the unspeakable disaster. Yet he suggested that we must try to understand the source of such hatred for political, religious and practical reasons. Radical religious and national fundamentalism should not cause us to respond in kind.

He writes, "Two sure ways to lose the battle against terrorism: to cringe in paralyzing fear, or to let [terrorist] ways become our ways."

—Excerpts from *The Mobile Register*

Honor teachers

James Michener, the author of books such as *The Source* and *Hawaii*, was once invited by President Eisenhower to a dinner at the White House. He answered the president with these words:

"Dear Mr. President: I received your invitation three days after I had agreed to speak a few words at a dinner honoring the wonderful high school teacher who taught me how to write. I know you will not miss me at your dinner, but she might at hers."

President Eisenhower answered Michener by saying, "In his lifetime a man lives under 15 or 16 presidents, but a really fine teacher comes into his life but rarely."

Labor Day laughs

Take a break and enjoy this work-related humor!

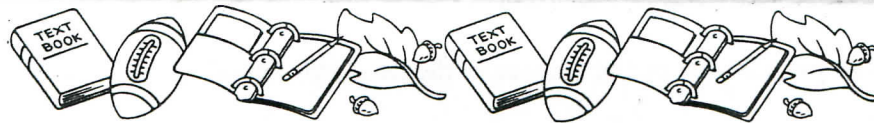
- My first job was in an orange juice factory. I got canned because I couldn't concentrate.
- When I couldn't hack it as a lumberjack, I got the ax.
- I wasn't suited to being a tailor.
- Working in the muffler factory was too exhausting.
- I was a banker ... until I lost interest.
- I realized there was no future in being a historian.
- Any way I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard at the deli.
- I studied to become a doctor but had no patients.
- My job at the coffee shop was always the same old grind.
- When I worked as a plumber, the tasks were too draining.
- I was hired at a gym but wasn't fit for the job.
- Finally, I got a job at a bakery; I kneaded dough!



Congratulations to Rev. Hayden's daughter,
Tia Blake, on winning the Northwell
Annual Talent Competition on July 24, 2023.



And then there was one!!! Tia competed with 6 other talented Finalists at Northwell Health's first and now Annual Talent Competition. And our Tia won!!! To God be the glory. She took all of Northwell, those present in the theater and those livestreaming, to the soon coming King!!! I join your godmother, godfather, sister, Rush Temple Church family and friends, and your Northwell family and friends in giving God the glory for the gift of the voice of an angel that God has given you. Continue to use it to lift the broken-hearted, the downtrodden, and those who don't know the King of Kings and the Lord of Lord's! Oh yes, one more thing... Tia did you say you're treating us to dinner with your winnings????!!! Love you always and forever-Mommy.



A mother was preparing for dinner guests one evening, so she reminded her little girl to say her prayers before she went to bed.

Next morning, the mother asked, "Did you say your prayers last night?"

"Well," the little one explained, "I got down on my knees and started to say them, and all of a sudden I thought: I bet God gets awfully tired of hearing the same old prayer over and over.

"So I crawled into bed and told Him the story of the three bears."

I don't recommend that you start telling God fairy tales, but I agree with the little girl! God must get pretty tired of hearing the same old prayers over and over again from some of us. Maybe we should begin to "say something" relevant to our Heavenly Father.

September 2023 Newsletter Article

“We Come this Far by Faith”

On September 24, 2023, Church of the Master will celebrate its 100th Anniversary! In the words of that well-known hymn “We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord, Trusting in His holy word, He’s never failed me yet. Singing oh, oh-oh can’t turn around. We’ve come this far by faith.”

As the Anniversary Committee and I set about meeting to plan the Church’s Centennial Celebration, we reviewed old photos of the original Church building that opened its doors and celebrated the first worship service on September 30, 1923 at the Eastern Boulevard location (now Bruckner Boulevard, what is currently a Jehovah’s Witness Kingdom Hall). We saw photos of the ground-breaking at the Church’s present location. We saw photos of the Church’s worship service celebrating the new beautiful Sanctuary, and parsonage. It struck me how full the pews were on that notable day! There was standing room only! I was also moved by the number of families with young children (our very own Janet Koys among them), and other long time members Elder “Miss Ellen,” McCullough, Elder Don and our dearly departed Sis. Vickie, Elder Ron and Miss Alice, Laura and Alex, Bro. Jim and Bro. Allen, and many others that I did not know as these members predated my tenure at COTM.

I recalled thinking how much faith and trust in the Lord the pastors and congregation had to possess in those early years in order to leave their former location and move to a new location, and accomplish the awesome task of building a new edifice to worship the Lord Jesus and serve the surrounding Throggsneck community.

Now, ours pews are not full. Many of the founding members have gone home to be with the Lord or relocated. But there is still a faithful remnant remaining at Church of the Master. I have faith that the pews in our Sanctuary will once again be full with little ones, youth and adults. This welcoming, faithful and persevering congregation has come too far leaning on the Lord to stop serving God and the community. We’ve come this far by faith leaning on the Lord because Jesus never failed us yet. And with the Lord on our side, there’s no telling what blessings await our Church of the Master in the next 100 years!

Shalom to you now,

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden

Pastor

