

# *The Master's Message*

## *The Newsletter of the Church of the Master*

### *September, 2024*

*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](mailto:cotm47@verizon.net)*

*[WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG](http://WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG)*

*Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor*

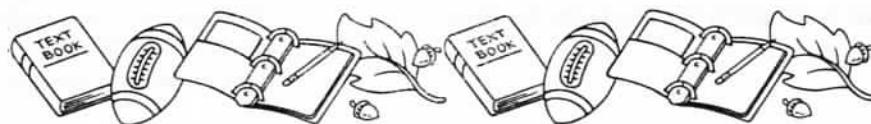
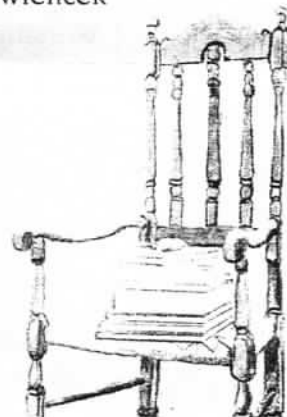


### *God Is Our Hiding Place*

Our strength is small, but God, You are mighty,  
Mighty to rise and come to our aid.  
Many are the battles we're facing,  
Battlefields we so often have made.  
With faith in You, we start every morning,  
Unaware what the day has in store.  
We trust in Your mercy, count on Your goodness,  
Lead, oh God, as in seasons before.  
You provide shelter in times of trouble,  
A hiding place from the tempest's wrath.  
Beneath Your wings we find calm assurance,  
Precious to You is a soul in distress.  
Your mighty power, living within us,  
Gives us fresh courage, helps us to pray.  
Perfect Your vessels, created for glory,  
That our life honors You, day after day.

Regina Wiencek

"Yes, so mighty is  
God, our God Who  
leads us always!"  
Psalm 48:15



## \*SPECIAL DATES\*

- Labor Day, September 1<sup>st</sup>
- Grandparents' Day, September 8<sup>th</sup>
- Patriot Day, September 11<sup>th</sup>
- First Day of Autumn, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

## \*News From the Pews\*



### Prayer Requests

Continue praying for:  
Ellen McCullough,  
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 8<sup>th</sup>, our morning worship service will return to 11:00 AM. Praise and Prayer time will begin at 10:50 AM.



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> is our **Annual Homecoming Worship Service & Luncheon.**  
&

Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> is our **Annual Friends & Family Worship Service & Luncheon.**  
Speak to Sandra McPherson for info.

## \*CHURCH CHUCKLES\*

When the church custodian quit, the pastor asked the organist if she would be able to also clean the church sanctuary.

The organist replied, "Do you mean that now I have to mind my keys and pews?"

\*\*\*\*\*

A little girl diligently pounded away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story.

"What's it about?" he asked.

"I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

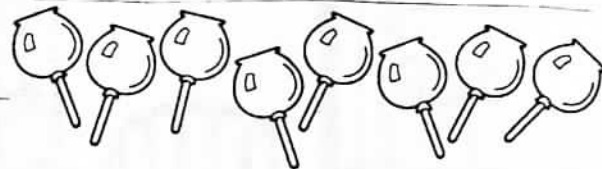
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9-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his Mother asked.

"Well, no, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"



## Teaching giving

According to a survey conducted by a company called Christian Research, Christians who were taught the importance of giving gave 26% more to their local church than people who hadn't received such teaching. They also gave nine times more to charity than the average householder.

Bill Gates, one of the world's wealthiest men, learned to give from his parents. They taught him by their example being generous to church and community needs. Now that Bill and his wife, Melinda, have traveled the world learning of the hurts, sickness and poverty of fellow humans, they work steadfastly to provide aid and hope. By their example other people are learning the importance of giving.

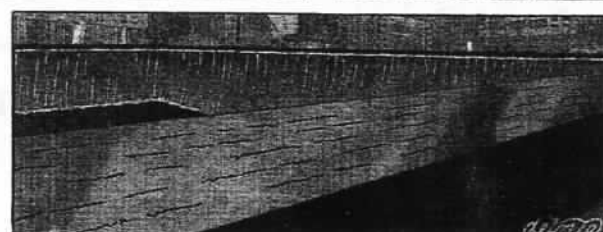
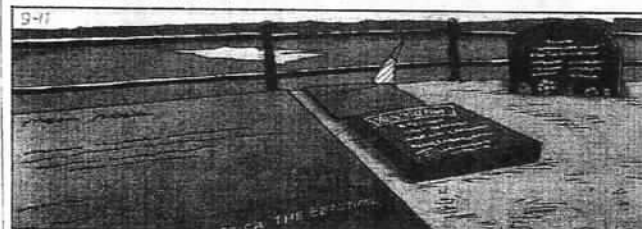
But you don't have to be a billionaire to give generously and cheerfully. What are some ways you can give — and, doing so, teach others about giving?

12. I finally got 8 hours of sleep. It took me 3 days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.
14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
16. When you squat, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?
17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east".
19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you out.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes your life forever. We call those people cops.
21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.



- Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower.  
—Albert Camus

## ONE BIG HAPPY



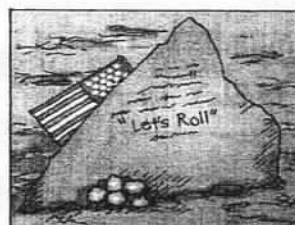
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## Awesome God

When our lives are focused on God, awe and wonder lead us to worship God, filling our inner being with a fullness we would never have thought possible. Awe prepares the way in us for the power of God to transform us, and this transformation of our inner attitudes can only take place when awe leads us in turn to wonder, admiration, reverence, surrender and obedience toward God.

—James Houston, *The Transforming Power of Prayer*

## By RICK DETORIE



"What you leave behind is not what is engraved on stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."

PERICLES

How many books of the Bible can you find in the paragraph below? There are 15 books from the Old and New Testaments.

I once made some remarks about hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu — kept some people looking so hard for facts and studying for the revelation that they were in a jam. Especially since the books were not capitalized. But truth finally struck numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy to spot. Others require judges to determine. We must admit it usually takes a minute to find one, and there will be loud lamentations when you see how simple it is. One woman says she brews tea while she puzzles her brain. Well, get to work if you want to complete it. Good luck!

Answer: I once made some remarks about hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu — kept some people looking so hard for facts and studying for the revelation that they were in a jam. Especially since the books were not capitalized. But truth finally struck numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy to spot. Others require judges to determine. We must admit it usually takes a minute to find one, and there will be loud lamentations when you see how simple it is. One woman says she brews tea while she puzzles her brain. Well, get to work if you want to complete it. Good luck!

- The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people.

—G.K. Chesterton

# DEATH

## WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT...

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know ..."  
"You don't know? You're a Christian Man, and don't know what's on the other side?"  
The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ... I know my Master is there and that is enough."





In our newsletters, we will now be sharing our financial reports with our readers so everyone is aware of our situation. These are our latest reports:

Excess Income/Expense Totals

May, 2024: +\$196.34

June, 2024: -\$2,401.37

As you can see, June was a very bad month for us. When Insurance & Classis assessment payments are due the same month, we never have enough income to cover the payments. 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 include your weekly donations for those weeks. You may not be here for those weeks, but our expenses don't skip a week.

We do 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.

One way we're trying to save some money is with sending this newsletter. If you receive our monthly newsletter by mail, we would appreciate it if you would let us know if you want to continue to receive it before the end of the year. Our postage keeps going up and a donation toward it will help us to continue sending it.

Our prayer is that we can continue to keep in touch with everyone and that will only be with your help.

*In life, it's not where you go,  
it's who you travel with.*

-Charles Schulz



### Hidden meanings

Did you know you can send a message using flowers? According to the U.K. charity Royal Collection Trust, flowers have held symbolic meaning for centuries, but communicating with pretty plants—i.e., floriography or flower language—became popular during the Victorian era. Here are a few of the meanings behind popular blossoms, according to Almanac.com.

**Daisies** represent innocence and loyalty.

**Forget-me-nots**, unsurprisingly, are a request to be remembered.

**Poppies** are the flowers of consolation.

**Red roses** symbolize romantic love.

**Tulips** are a declaration of passion and love.

**Violets** denote watchfulness, modesty and faithfulness.

Mother Goose & Grimm



## Pastor's Corner

September brings an end to the lazy, hazy days of summer and calls our children back to school, some for the very first time. Many will be excited at the prospect of getting new clothes or uniforms and school supplies. Others will be anxious because they are going to a new school and will have to make new friends. We pray that they will have a safe and productive school year.

When I think about our most impressionable young minds, I wonder what life lessons will we teach them, and what kind of future will we leave them? Recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia have left me saddened and very concerned that hatred and racial bigotry has reared its ugly head again in our nation. After many turbulent decades of struggling for equal and civil rights for all citizens in our country, partisan politics, a lack of civility and empathy for our fellow man appear to be turning back the hands of time to a darker period in our country.

The late Nelson Mandela once said "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can be taught to hate, then they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." After 27 years of imprisonment in a South African prison under inhumane conditions in a then Apartheid South Africa, once freed, Mr. Mandela forgave his oppressors. After a misguided young man entered into Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, sat through the bible study for an hour, and then shot and killed the pastor and eight members of the church attending the bible study on that fateful night. He said that he wanted to start a race war. At the pre-trial arraignment, one by one, each of the family members of the slain "Emanuel 9" told the young, hate-filled perpetrator that they forgave him for what he had done.

Forgiveness is the single most important thing we can do. Let us ask ourselves what would Jesus do in the Charlottesville violent act that resulted in the death of the lovely 32 year old, young woman, Heather Heyer, whose voice has been stilled? What would Jesus do in the Emanuel 9 situation? He would say: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34.

Can we do anything less than love our enemies and be our brother's and sister's keeper. That is what Jesus did.

Shalom to you,

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden

Pastor, Church of the Master

Reprinted from September, 2017

