

The Master's Message

The Newsletter of the Church of the Master

September, 2026

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

WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor



Years ago when Martha Berry was struggling to get the Berry School started in Rome, Georgia, she appealed to Henry Ford for a contribution. He reached into his pocket and gave her a dime. Instead of being discouraged at the size of the gift, Miss Berry determined to use it for the school's good. She bought a package of seed peanuts with it. The seeds were planted and tended, and they yielded a large crop of peanuts which Miss Berry sold.

She again called on Mr. Ford.

"Here's the dime you gave me last year," she said, handing him a coin. Then she told him of the return she had realized from his meager investment.

Mr. Ford was so impressed with her perseverance that, in the years that followed, he gave millions of dollars to the school.

I have wasted many hours fretting over things I don't possess - talents, money, material goods. And then I hear about someone like Miss Berry, and I realize that it is not important what or how much I have. What really counts is how I use that which I do have.

Jesus, I'll stop worrying about what I don't have. Today I will give praise and find ways to multiply the talents I do have.

Drue Duke
Guidepost Ministries



Grandparents Day

Calling on an old friend, I found her crouching among some peony bushes behind an old shed.

"Playing hide-and-seek with the grandkids," she explained, brushing dirt and leaves off her knees. "I can't run so fast, so I have to think of better places to hide. I'm in the autumn of my life now. I'm enjoying it as I thoroughly enjoyed every season of my life."

Seasons of life. I myself can remember the joys of childhood, the challenge and growth of teen years, the richness and business of young womanhood, marriage, motherhood. Now I'm living in the late summer of my life.

God gives us blessings and trials, successes and failures, joys and sorrows in each season. Each season is to be treasured and filled. God has been so good to me in each season. I know I can safely trust Him with the next. I only need to live well today. That will prepare me to live well tomorrow.

Thank You, gracious Father, for the privileges and blessings of living for You.

Lucille Campbell
Guidepost Ministries

SPECIAL DATES

- Labor Day, September 7th
- Patriot Day, September 11th
- National Grandparents Day, Sept. 13th
- First Day of Autumn, September 22nd

News From the Pews



Prayer Requests

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

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



Our Sunday morning worship attendance has fallen below 10, and that includes the Pastor and the members who join us remotely.

Please make it a priority to attend church on Sunday morning and bring your weekly offerings along with the offerings for the Sundays you've missed. Our financial outlook is bleak. If you are a member and haven't yet paid your assessment amount (\$137 for the year, \$34.25/quarter), we would greatly appreciate your help. Our next payment is due by the end of September.

Bones of the church

The "body" of a church has four kinds of bones:

1. The WISHbones are those folks who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work.
2. The JAWbones are those who do all the talking and very little else.
3. The KNUCKLEbones are those who knock everything anyone else tries to do.
4. The BACKbones are those who get under the load and get the work done.

What kind of bone are you?

CHURCH CHUCKLES

A minister and a senator arrived at the Pearly Gates at the same time, and being a humble fellow, the minister motioned for the senator to speak with St. Peter first.

"Senator, we've been expecting you. Welcome! Please, step into this limo. It will take you to the finest mansion we have."

Next, the minister approached. "Hello, Pastor," St. Peter welcomed him. "Here comes the shuttle bus to take you to your economy suite."

"Wait a moment. The minister was mystified. "I have served the Lord faithfully for many years. An economy suite is my reward?"

St. Peter smiled as he replied, "Well, we get ministers up here regularly, but this is the first senator we've ever had."

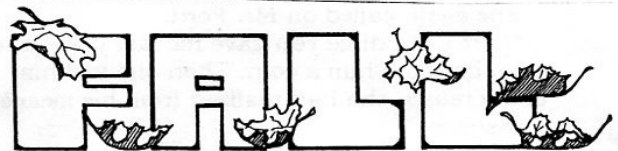
Dear Pastor:

Why do we have to go to church every week? I thought it was called Someday school.

Paolo, age 6

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8:00 P.M. in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.



Monday morning prayer

The alarm clock has awakened me, dear God, but I want to talk with you before it rings again. I need to thank you for this comfortable bed and a good night's sleep, for good health and strength, for an enjoyable weekend, for a wonderful church and worship service yesterday, for friends and family who care and love, for you and all that you bring to our lives, for the opportunities to serve you.

Be with me throughout this day and the week ahead. Let me do my work honestly, willingly and responsibly. As I meet people, help me to see them as your children and your loved ones.

I know you will lead me in whatever circumstances this day holds. I look forward to the adventures you and I will share together. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell,
from *Prayers, Hymns and Poems*



September 2026 Master's Message Newsletter – Pastor's Article¹

Home

September signals the waning days of summer and hearkens our students back to school for a new school year and semester! For our Church of the Master Congregation, September hearkens us back to Sunday morning Worship Services at 11:00 AM. The third Sunday in September also beacons us to observe and celebrate our *Annual "Home Coming Sunday!"* *Home Coming* was started many years ago to welcome members and attendees back from summer vacations and also to invite former members to return home to celebrate with us!

Robert Frost famously wrote "*Home* is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in."² Church of the Master is the place where, when members and former members or attendees go there, we are always happy to see you and take you in (emphasis added)!

During the turbulent times in which we live, serve and worship, it is vitally important to have a loving, caring and encouraging "*church home*." Our aim, like every congregation, is to increase our dwindling membership rolls. But Church of the Master and other congregations of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) welcome all to come and worship with us! We offer various membership and attendee categories for everyone invited to our Worship Services. According to our RCA Book of Church Order, we have confessing members who are baptized and confess the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior. We have adherents who are persons we welcome and who faithfully attend our Sunday Worship Services and participate in all activities and ministries at Church of the Master. In addition to our Sunday Worship Services, we offer the following activities and ministries such as Bible Study on Zoom on every Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. and every Saturday at 12:00 Noon. Prayer Meeting on Sundays following the Morning Worship Service in Hahn Hall, followed by our Coffee Hour fellowship. We have our Dorcas Prayer Shawl crocheting ministry and painting activities. Our Master's Message Newsletter is published and mailed out monthly with a calendar to keep members informed and aware of happenings at Church of the Master. We welcome uplifting and informative articles. Soon, we plan to offer Evangelistic Outreach Services and ministry to nursing homes and to the surrounding communities.

A loving *church home* like Church of the Master is especially helpful when a member or family member is dealing with illness, or the loss of a loved one. The pastor and congregation encircle families with loving arms, provide spiritual support, and pray for and with them through these difficult life situations.

¹ Reprinted from our Master's Message Newsletter Article in the September 2025 Edition

² (Robert Frost Quotes. BrainyQuote.com, BrainyMedia Inc, 2025.

. ((Accessed August 12, 2025).

If someone you know or you are looking for such a loving, caring and nurturing *church home*, we at Church of the Master are waiting with open arms! The Lord Jesus tells us this in the Gospel of Matthew,

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 10:28-30).

In conclusion, I leave you with the lyrics of one of the well-known hymns of the Church,

“Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he’s waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Come home, come home;
you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!

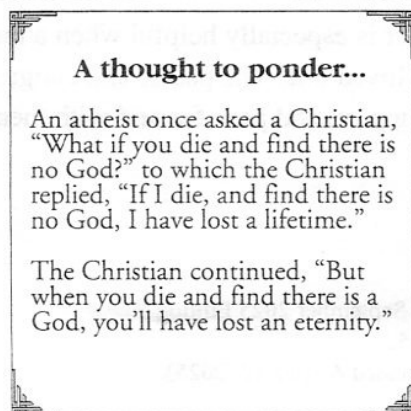
O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.

We hope to see you on the third Sunday in September at our *Annual Home Coming Sunday* and luncheon at the Church of the Master! We’ll leave the lights on for you!

Shalom to you now,

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden
Pastor



Pontius' Puddle





Beginning Sunday, September 13th, our worship service will return to 11:00A.M., with Praise and Prayer time beginning at 10:50 A.M.

We will be celebrating Our Annual Homecoming Sunday on September 20th, with a light lunch following the morning worship service

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



“But it's usually hard to pray in time with the music.”

What do you see?

Take a look at this line of type:

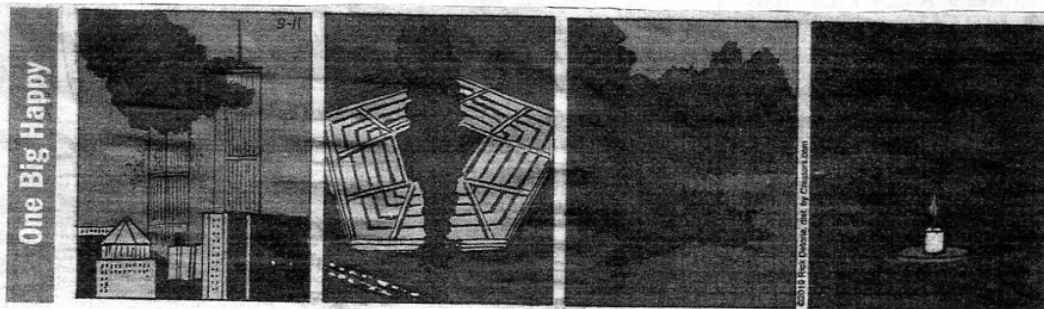
GODISNOWHERE

Did you read it as “God is nowhere”? Or are you an optimist who read it as “God is now here”?

The Legend of the Sand Dollar

(Do you remember Rev. VanPopering's children's sermon on the sand dollar? Here's a little poem to remind you..)

There's a lovely little legend
that I would like to tell
Of the birth and death of Jesus
found in this lovely shell.
If you examine closely
You'll see that you find here
Four nail holes and a fifth one
Made by a Roman's spear.
On one side the Easter lily
in its center is the star
That appeared unto the shepherds
And led them from afar.
The Christmas Poinsettia
Etched on the other side
Reminds us of His Birthday
Our Happy Christmastide.
Now break the center open
and here you will release
The five white doves awaiting
To spread Good Will and Peace.
This simple little symbol
Christ left for you and me
To help us spread his Gospel
Through all Eternity.



GRANDPARENTS DAY

(celebrated the first Sunday after Labor Day)

Surprised by God



Grandparents
Day

A grandmother took her three-year-old granddaughter into her lap and began reading to her from Genesis. After a while, noticing that the girl was unusually quiet, the grandmother asked, "Well, what do you think of it, dear?" "Oh, I love it," answered the child. "You never know what God is going to do next!"



No easy road

If you're looking for the easy road
You might be wasting your time.
To reach the most meaningful goals
in life
You've got steep hills to climb.

If you're looking for the lazy way
One thing that you will find,
Is that success will never come
Without some daily grind.

If you're looking for some easy wealth
Look somewhere else instead;
Within yourself for energy
To earn your daily bread.

The path to greatness you can't tread
Without some heavy load;
So work your hardest — and your best —
There is no easy road.

— Jacqueline Schiff



It's what's inside that counts...

Do you think that you don't have the
"look"

That many want today;
Beauty's in the eye of the beholder
So many folks say.

There are inner beauties
To which you can aspire,
Which are far more important
Than what the flesh can conspire.

Being loving and tenderhearted,
Is what our Lord commands,
Being kind and compassionate
Is what He demands.

So strive for these qualities,
Let them in your heart display
And ask the Holy Spirit,
To strengthen you each and every day.

Be transformed

It's Labor Day weekend — a time to rest from our work. But this is also an opportunity to reflect on our daily lives and discern whether our effort is thankless and unfulfilling or something that gives us deep and lasting satisfaction. God intends for our work to be much more than a job, much more than a daily grind. It should be, in a vocation — which means, quite literally, a "calling."

In Romans 12:2, Paul challenges us with the word "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect."

The apostle's advice, then, is to be transformed by the renewing of your minds. Paul says be transformed by discovering what the Lord God is calling you to do.

—T.

BROOM HILDA



©1990 RUSSELL MYERS