**Church Life - Adult Funnies**

**George Burns recalls his first success as an entertainer: When I was small I was singing with three other Jewish kids from the neighborhood. A nearby department store held a talent contest representing all the local churches. When the Presbyterian had no one to enter, the minister asked the four of us to represent them. There we were, four Jewish boys sponsored by a Presbyterian church, and our opening song was “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling.” We followed that with “Mother Machree" and won first prize. The church got a purple altar cloth, and each of us got a watch worth about 85 cents. I was so excited I ran home to tell my mother. She was on the roof, hanging out the wash. I rushed up and said, “Mama, I don't want to be a  Jew anymore!" “Do you mind my asking why?" she responded calmly. “I've been a Jew up until now and never got anything. I was a Presbyterian for 15 minutes today and already I got a watch," I said, holding out my wrist. “First, help me hang up the wash," she said, glancing at the watch. “Then you can be a Presbyterian." *(Epistle)***

**Every Catholic church in town but one had its Mass schedule posted in front. The exception announced the time weekly bingo started. I phoned the priest to complain. “My son," he replied, “our parishioners know when we hold Mass, but we have to be sure the Protestants know when we hold bingo.” *(James A. Daily, in Reader's Digest*)  
   
The minister prays from the pulpit: “Bless the ladies' group in the church, bless our assistant pastor and heaven help the trustees if they don't get on the ball and repair the roof!” *(The Clergy Journal cartoon)***

**After a long, dry sermon, the minister announced that he wished to meet with the church board after the service. The first man to arrive was a stranger. “I think you misunderstood," said the minister. “This is a meeting of the board." “If anyone here is more bored than I am, I'd like to meet him," said the man. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**If fishing is a religion, fly-fishing is high church. *(Tom Brokaw)***

**A little girl leaving her first church service was asked by the minister how she liked it. “I liked the music,” she replied, “but the commercial was too long.” *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**I lived with my grandparents in Celina, Ohio in the 1940s. My grandfather was pastor of the local Church of the Nazarene. The church was on a large plot of land that we were allowed to farm to help put food on the table. We raised everything that would grow in that area, including sugarcane that was turned into molasses. We used to say that we raised cane behind the church and got away with it. *(Dick Moore, in Reminisce magazine)***

**Once a minister and his organist made a plan to expose the inappropriate chatter by the congregation during that period of time just prior to the worship service. The organist was to build the prelude to a loud fortissimo, then stop suddenly. When the music abruptly halted, one lady was heard to say, “I fry mine in lard!" *(Freda Cavendish)***

**Church council lament: “Why, when motions require seconds, and votes are recorded in minutes, do the meetings last for hours?” *(Inspiring Quotations, Compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)***

**127 mph: Not speeds reached by your typical Sunday driver. But a man got behind the wheel of his tan 2000 Audi, fastened his seatbelt and led Wyoming and Colorado state troopers on a wild, 83-mile chase from north of Baggs to just west of Steamboat Springs, running several drivers off the road. The car wasn't stolen, and there were no warrants for the man's arrest. He had a valid license, and he wasn't under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The man identified by authorities as Jay Peterson, 45, of Frisco, allegedly told a Routt County detention deputy that he had to get to church on time in Silverthorne. *(Rocky Mountain News, July 25, 2005)***

**A newspaper copy editor was handling a story about the Church of St. John the Baptist. Not having time to write the headline at the moment, he sent the copy out to the printers with this written at the top: “John the Baptist -- Head to Come.” *(Herb Cain, in San Francisco Chronicle)***

**The seminary that I attended required us to gain practical experience by having us intern in one of the local churches. A classmate was assigned to a church whose pastor had originally come from Germany. My friend was nervous and a bit anxious conducting his first service. In announcing that the pastor would give the morning message, he said, “I will now turn the service over to your German shepherd.” *(Rev. Donald K. Schell, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Board member: “Sid will now present the Treasurer's Report." Sid: “Once there was a beautiful maiden who lived with her evil stepmother, and her two ugly stepsisters. The poor girl spent all day cleaning while her ugly stepsisters. . . ." Board member: “Sid! That's not the Treasurer's Report -- that's Cinderella!" Sid: “I figure one fairy tale is just as good as another.” *(Bud Grace, in Piranha Club comic strip)***

**A sign in the church next to the fire extinguisher says: “In case of fire and brimstone break glass.” *(Dana Summers, in Bound & Gagged comic strip)***

**A pastor of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster opened a local government meeting in Alaska with a prayer while wearing a colander on his head. "I'm called to invoke the power of the true inebriated creator of the universe, the drunken tolerator of all the lesser and more recent gods, and maintainer of gravity here on earth," said Pastafarian" pastor Barrett Fletcher, ending his prayer with "Ramen." The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster was formed as a satire on other religions and has won court rulings that it must be treated equally. Some politicians, Fletcher said, "seem to feel they can't do the work without being overseen by a higher authority." (*The Week magazine, October 4, 2019)***

**My grandmother, a staunch Southern Baptist, had marched me off to Sunday school and church regularly. So when I switched to the Episcopal Church after marriage, she challenged me: "What's wrong with the Baptist Church, son?" "Well," I explained. "Carole and I flipped a coin to see if we would go to her church, or mine, and I lost." "Serves you right," said my grandmother. "Good Baptists don't gamble." *(J. E. Bedenbaugh, in Reader's Digest)***

**The Vatican received an invitation for a friendly but high-level golf game to be played in the spirit of friendship by representatives of Catholics and Jews. None of the cardinals was good at golf, so they decided to make Jack Nicklaus, a devout Catholic, a cardinal so he could represent the Vatican -- and win the game. Nicklaus was honored and agreed to play. The day after the game Nicklaus went to the Vatican and reported to the pope that he had good news and bad news. The good news was that he had played the best golf of his life; the bad news was that he lost by three strokes to Rabbi Tiger Woods. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**The young minister, new to town, got lost trying to find the cemetery for a graveside service for a man with no family or friends. When he finally found a backhoe and its crew, they were eating lunch. The hearse was nowhere in sight. The minister ran to the open pit and, feeling guilty for being tardy, preached an impassioned, lengthy service. As he was returning to his car, he overheard one of the workmen say, “I've been putting into septic tanks for 20 years and I've never seen anything like that." *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**My husband's cousin Larry is legally blind and has a golden retriever named “Amos" for a guide dog. We go to church together every Sunday and Amos lies quietly in the aisle next to Larry. After church, we go back to our house for breakfast and conversation. During the Sunday breakfast, Larry said he and Amos were on a walk when he heard one boy say to another, “Hey, that dog goes to our church." *(Dennis McCarthy, in Reminisce Extra magazine)***

**Favorite hymns of**

* **Dentists – “Crown Him With Many Crowns"**
* **Meteorologists – “There Shall Be Showers Of Blessing"**
* **Contractors – “The Church's One Foundation"**
* **Tailors – “Holy, Holy, Holy"**
* **Golfers – “There Is A Green Hill Far Away"**
* **Politicians – “Standing On The Promises"**
* **IRS Agents – “All To Thee"**
* **Electricians – “Send The Light"**
* **Shoppers – “In The Sweet By And By"**
* **Optometrists – “Open My Eyes That I May See" *(The Calling Newsletter)***

**One day, I was teaching the external signs of the seven sacraments to my fifth-grade class. After explaining that the pouring of the water and the words of the priest are the external signs of Baptism, the class caught on quickly; they did well, in fact, until we got to Matrimony. All the students were stumped except Joshua, who raised his hand excitedly. “I know, I know,” he said. “The outward sign of Holy Matrimony is the limo outside the church.” *(James Souza, in Catholic Digest)***

**When Joseph Smith, the founder and spiritual leader of the Mormon Church, ran for the U. S. presidency he promised that if elected he'd outlaw lawyers. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When I arrived at church in our small Minnesota town near the Wisconsin border, I was surprised to see the pulpit adorned in green-cloth while the lectern was draped in purple. “I don't want to show any favoritism," the pastor told me with a smile. “The Packers are playing the Vikings today.” *(Rory L. Raymond, in Reader's Digest)***

**Pets aren't always necessarily cuddly. They may also have spiritual callings. Scientists in Ireland have discovered that distinct types of bats categorize themselves as Protestant or Catholic. Really. Natterer's bats like to nest in stone walls common in big Protestant churches, and the little guys prefer their warm-up flying space in the enclosed roof spaces of those buildings. Long-eared bats like to squeeze into cozy little nests between roof slates and beams such as those usually used on Catholic cathedrals. Scientists have also found that lesser horseshoe bats have aristocratic leanings since they seem to like the big 17th-century homes that feature grand roof spaces in summer and cozy cellars in winter. *(J. C. Walker, in Tidbits)***

**Thanksgiving Day was approaching, and the family had received a card picturing a Pilgrim family on their way to church. Grandma showed the card to her young grandchildren and remarked, “The Pilgrim children liked going to church with their parents.” “Oh, yeah?” her grandson replied. “Then why is the dad carrying that rifle?” *(Quoted in The Joyful Newsletter)***

**One Sunday morning the pastor noticed little Johnny was standing up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The young man of seven had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up and stood beside him and gazing up at the plaque he said quietly, “Good morning son.” “Good morning pastor,” replied the young man not taking his eyes off the plaque. “Sir, what is this?” Johnny asked. “Well, son, these are the names of all the people who have died in the service,” replied the pastor. Soberly, they stood together staring up at the large plaque. Little Johnny’s voice barely broke the silence when he asked quietly, “Which one sir, the 9:00 or the 11:00?” *(Claire Chanel, in On Course magazine)***

**Perhaps the most lasting pleasure in life is that of not going to church. *(William Inge, American playwright)***

**Coming out of church, Mrs. Peterson asks her husband, “Do you think that Johnson girl is tinting her hair?" “I didn't even see her," Mr. Peterson admits. “And that dress Mrs. Hansen was wearing," Mrs. Peterson continues. “Really, don't tell me you think that's the proper costume for a mother of two." “I'm afraid I didn't notice that either," Mr. Peterson says. “Oh, for heaven's sake," Mrs. Peterson snaps. “A lot of good it does you to go to church." *(The American Legion Magazine)***

**Sharma, my cousin, was telling me about an evening service at the church we’ve both attended for years. She and her husband usually sat in the back, but this time they moved up front to be sure to hear the Scripture reading. They sat beside a longtime church member who cheerfully said, “Good to have ya with us! Where y’all from?” Taken by surprise, Sharma mumbled, “The back.” *(Lauren Grisham, in Reader’s Digest)***

**One parishioner asks another during the church service: “Are the seats cheaper back here?" *(The Clergy Journal cartoon)***

**And did you hear about the bishop who hired a secretary who had worked for the Pentagon? She immediately changed his filing system to “Sacred” and “Top Sacred.” *(Ira N. Briggs)***

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