**Church Life - Trivia**

**At Halfmoon Bay, Ontario, an aquatic church service is held on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. during July and August. A minister conducts the service from land while the sailing fraternity gather on the decks of their yachts or in the shells of their punts. The pulpit sits on a large rock, and loudspeakers carry the service to the water-borne congregation. Boy Scouts paddle from boat to boat to collect the offering. Then, as the last notes of the closing hymn come from a hundred swaying decks, anchor chains rattle and diesels hum into action. And another interdenominational aquatic worship service has ended. *(John Fisher, in Council for Canadian Unity newsletter)***

**Medieval ecclesiastical calendars had the important saints and feast days highlighted in red ink. These memorable days became known as “red-letter days.” *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 128)***

**The chair on which the bishop sat was called a “cathedra." Whence its building's name: “cathedral." The saint's cape was called a “chappelle," Whence its building's name: “chapel.” And the guard at that building's door was called a “chaplain." *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Monks in medieval abbeys perfected the craft of cheese making. Had to, maybe, after they swore off meat. Did I tell you “munster" is just a corruption of “monastery"? *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Scholars are now crediting a religious revival as critical to why crime rates went down in the late-19th-century America and England, despite urban upheavals brought on by the Industrial Revolution. *(Malcolm S. Forbes, Jr.)***

**For a shocking account of some-straight-from-the-shoulder denunciation that leaves little doubt as to where Jesus stood on the matter of ecclesiasticism, read the entire chapter of Matthew 23: Other than the reference to the church being founded on Peter (Petros), which is a symbolical reference to an inner organization of spiritual ideas, Jesus devoted his time, not in stumping for the establishing of a church organization, but in teaching Truth, in helping people to formulate that aggregation of spiritual ideas within themselves -- toward healthier, happier, more prosperous lives. *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 6)***

**The Grand Ole Opry had become so popular that it was held in the Ryman Auditorium, a massive red brick meetinghouse built in the 1890s by a reformed steamboat and saloon owner named Tom Ryman in honor of the Nashville street preacher who’d converted him. Ryman had gone to heckle the preacher one day, only to end up being brought over to the Lord. No wonder the Ryman Auditorium looked, and felt, like a church! Though the Opry doesn’t broadcast from the Ryman today except on special occasions, you still can find me there from time to time. It’s been refurbished a little, but the Ryman has those same wooden pews that Tom Ryman put in for his preacher friend more than a hundred years ago. The building Tom Ryman built to honor the Lord may not see so many revival meetings these days, but if you ask me, there’s still a touch of divine going on in it. I’ve got a real strong feeling just about every performer who’s ever sung from that old wooden stage would second me on that. *(Porter Wagoner, in Guideposts magazine)***

**In 1887, minister Harvey Wilcox and his wife Daeida founded Hollywood, California. Liquor was banned, and free land was given to anyone who agreed to build a church. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**Massachusetts passed a law in 1675 to lock church doors during services. Purpose was to cut disturbances not by latecomers, but by early goers. Nothing so infuriates the pulpit personality as this drift of departing people. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In 1870, you could buy a mail-order church and get it delivered by train, boat and wagon. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Real church names:  
\* The Lizard Methodist Church (United Kingdom)  
\* Falling Asleep of the Ever-Virgin Mary Church (Anaheim, CA)  
\* 24-7 Church (Seffner, Florida)  
\* Boston Spa Methodist Church (United Kingdom)  
\* Old Wegee United Methodist Church (St. Clairsville, Ohio)  
\* Rope of Hope Cowboy Church (Duluth, Georgia)  
\* Towel-N-Basin Christian Church (Lake Tahoe, Nevada) *(World Features Syndicate)***

**Since 1939, the religious drama Black Hills Passion Play has been presented under the stars at the Spearfish Amphitheater, among the world’s largest outdoor stages with seating for 6,000, in Spearfish, South Dakota. *(American Profile magazine)***

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