

Altoona Christian Church *The Welcome News*

“Touched by Christ to Care and Serve”

The Rev. Kenneth Briggs Jr.
Pastor

May 2007



BAPTISMS

March 30th

was a very eventful

day at Altoona Christian Church. Autumn Ashe Winey was baptized after attending the Pastors' class. The ACC God Rod Team performed a very touching number called "Arise". On the same day, the Just Us Big Kids Choir sang for us as well.



The "Singing Cherubs" sang on April 27th.



Milissa Clark's last day was on April 20th. Pastor Ken presented her with a farewell present. We will miss you!

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May Birthdays

- 1 Verneita Rehor
- 2 Anna Hines
- 2 Jessica Miers
- 3 Westin Nelson
- 6 Diane Winey
- 9 Carol Sutton
- 14 Nicholas Cecchi
- 15 Carol Brown
- 15 Scott Hamilton
- 18 Patty Gomez
- 18 Donald Hills
- 18 Clint Wolf
- 19 Helen Mahnke
- 19 Joan Willey
- 20 Charles Cooper
- 22 Jackie Cullinan
- 23 Justice Hitchcock
- 23 Carol Nieters
- 25 Don Townsend
- 25 Doris Wolf
- 29 Ron Cronk
- 30 Gregory Champion
- 30 Landen Hamilton

May Anniversaries

- 10 James & Inga Brown
- 15 Blaine & Jenny Moats
- 25 Charles & Patricia Ver Heul
- 29 Rev. Ken & Carla Briggs

We wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food, and visits these past couple weeks.

We feel blessed for the support of our friends and our church family.

Gordon and Nancy Gill

Thanks for attending the Welcoming Spring Potluck. We were a small group but had yummy food and beautiful flower basket for each table. Too bad you missed out. **Our next potluck will be June 8th with a Camp Theme so mark your calendar ahead and plan on coming.**

Health Concerns

Myrtle Cooper, Jerry Harding & his sister, Sue Harding, Jim McFarland, Hetty Tarbell, Bill Taylor, Kandy Willey, Matthew Jessen, Lorene Tuinstra, Betty Cooper, Leon King, Pete Kana-kares, Georgia Woodward's neighbor, Janet Lamb, Becky & Jay Rosenberger's grandson, Nickolas Cecchi, Larry DeMoss' sister, Dee Deitrick, Carol Genovese's sister-in-law, Sharon Kost, & her friend, Linda Biddle, Ann Kirby's brother, Rich Peltz, the Irv Barron family, Irv Barron's sister, Betty Darst & sister-in-law, Neva Cunningham, Connie Miers' brother, Steve Iverson, Joey Procyk, Joe Procyk Sr., Kristina Steffes-Clayton's friend, Lois Fredricks, Denny Hulen's father, Walt Hulen, Dorothy Gulling, John Champion & Norma Stuart's sister, Martha Stuart, Marvin & Juanita Sheets, Jim Pruis-mann's friend, Vinton Zuck, Tammy & David Peebler's friend, Joann Tompkins, Alex Champion, Maddie Landwehr, Yvonne Svenson, Tracy Moore, Bob Shaw, prayers for Brett & his family, Gordon & Nancy Gill, Ray & Wendy Miles, Andrew Dall, and Lloyd Steenhoek.



General Prayers

Tami Zumach's friend, Dan Wilczak, Ken and Carla Briggs' grandson, Mike McMurray, and all others serving our country.



Reminder!!!!!!
Please bring your donations of non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry
On or before
May 18th

Con Queso Dip

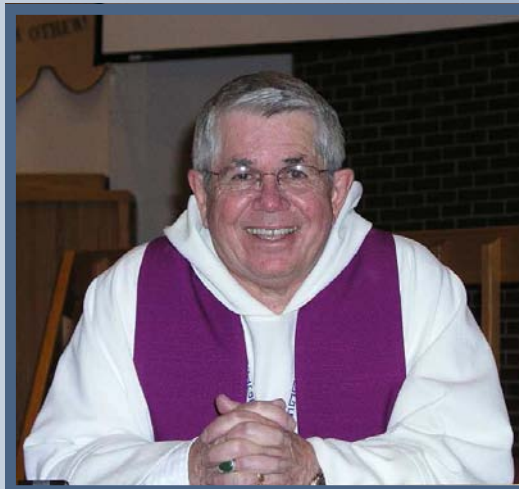
- 1lb. Ground Beef
- 1 lb of breakfast sausage
- 1 jar (16 oz.) of picante sauce
- 1 can of cream of mushroom soup
- 1 lb Velveeta cheese

Recipe

Brown meat in skillet. Place meat in crock pot, add ingredients and heat until cheese melts and ingredients are blended. Serve with corn tortilla chips.

My Dear Faith Family:

I spoke last Sunday that we must always remember our Easter vision of love, and hope. Another part of that Easter vision is the call to be disciples. *“Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”* “The Message” by Eugene H. Peterson, Matthew 28:19-20



Sometimes it is difficult to keep track of the Messiah who is among us as we are lead in our discipleship. The following is a favorite story of mine that I share with you. The story is titled “The Messiah Is among Us” of unknown origin. I found it in a book titled “Doorways to the Soul” edited by Elisa Davy Pearmain.

Once there was a monastery that had fallen upon hard times. Some of the younger monks had left in dissatisfaction, and no new men were joining. There was but a handful of monks and their leader, the abbot, remaining. They began fighting among themselves, each blaming the hard times on the faults and failings of the other.

One day a traveling rabbi stopped at the monastery for a night’s rest. He ate, and prayed alongside the other monks. The next day, as the rabbi prepared to continue on his journey, the abbot drew him aside. He told him of the problems of the monastery and asked him for his observations and for some advice to share with the other monks.

Upon hearing the abbot’s woes, the rabbi was quiet for some time.

Cannot you give me some advice to help my monastery to thrive again? The abbot begged.

“Your monks will not listen to my advice,” the rabbi replied. “But perhaps they would benefit from an observation. The Messiah dwells among you here at the monastery.”

“One of us?” asked the abbot astonished. “Which one?”

“Oh, that I cannot say,” he answered. “Share this with your brothers, and in time it shall be revealed to you.”

The abbot thanked him and sent him on his way. He then gathered the monks together, who listened in amazement to the news.

“One of us! But who?” each one asked out loud. Then to themselves they wondered, “It couldn’t be Brother Robert—or could it?”

“Surely not Brother Henry, but there are times when...”

“Not the youngest, well, maybe...”

“The abbot himself?”

“Could it be me?”

Soon things began to change at the monastery as each began to see the Messiah in the other and to hear the Messiah’s words in each word spoken.

Soon people began to wander back to the monastery, and in time new men joined and the monastery thrived.

I encourage each us to always imagine that the Messiah is now on earth and walking among us. It could be anyone in our family, our workplace or someone who shows up at worship this Sunday. With this in mind, how will each of us see that person? How will we treat them? How will we listen to and learn from them?

You also might try treating yourself as if you were the Messiah. Pick one person that you interact with frequently. Without telling them, imagine that they are the Messiah and see how it changes your interactions with them for a day. I think we will all grow as disciples.

Keep Dancing in the Spirit,

Ken



FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY - May 18th - Everyone is in a need of some kind. "Give" is essential - "Give to everyone who asks you... Your reward will be great..." Luke 6:30. Please remember to pick up some extra food when you are grocery shopping to share with those less fortunate. Most needed items this month are pancake mix, syrup (sugar and sugar-free).

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL - Outreach is still in need of 30 to 40 Plastic Baby Food Containers. These containers will be given out to the children so they can start saving for the Heifer project. If possible we would like to have these containers by the first part of June.

HOPE MINISTRIES - Please see sign-up sheet on Outreach Table. We will be working at their Bargain Barn and helping to feed the Tent People. Saturday, May 31st.

SIMPLE SUPPER - As an Outreach project at the end of March, Members of the congregation fixed and served a "Simple Supper" for the Christian Community Food Pantry clients. We would like to thank members of our congregation who donated items for us to be able to make the food which was served that night and to thank June Stuart for making her famous chocolate cup cakes, they were enjoyed by all.

KID'S CAFÉ - Anybody who would like to volunteer for Kid's Café, please see sign up sheet on Outreach Table. Sign up for as many days as you would like. Kid's Café is a once a week summer activity sponsored by Caring Hands Outreach. Children will meet at Delaware Elementary or Mitchellville Elementary. You would be volunteering to interact with children from (10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or making lunches (mornings, at Delaware Elementary) This project is every Tuesday from June 10th - July 29th. Volunteers need to be signed up by Wednesday, May 12th. Volunteer orientation will be Tuesday, May 20th, 5 p.m., at the Altoona Library. If need any further info, please contact Carol Genovese.



From the Permanent Endowment Fund Committee

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but becomes the largest of plants and grows into a tree where birds can come and find shelter."

Matthew 13:31-32

The Permanente Endowment Fund Committee is presently preparing a helpful brochure to enlighten our congregation in the use of the Endowment Fund.

To borrow a few words from Rev. Jerry Long of Central Christian Church in Denver, Co, "The Endowment Fund is a Living Reminder of the faithfulness of the disciples who have gone before us. Income...helps give us the freedom we need to keep our eyes focused on the outreach projects that have historically been the focus of our mission."

The faith expressed in the parable of the mustard seed should be our guide in growing and building our congregation. All for the glory and honor of God.

Norma Teuber

SNL



During SNL in April the kids were doing some cow games (with the string) and there were some trust issues that came up. So, Milissa had them do an exercise where the children caught each other as they fell backwards.

ALTOONA CHRISTIAN CHURCH BOARD MINUTES April 21st, 2008

Board Members Present: Carol Nieters, David Peebler, Lonita McLean, Tim McLean, Dick Green, Georgia Woodward, Jeff Zaugg, Mary Heinrich, Carol Genovese, Ben Tarbell, Norma Teuber, Anna Hines, Paultette Craggs, and Connie Ramseyer.

Other Members Present: Pastor Ken Briggs, Bob Stuart, Doug Teuber, and Denise Green.

The Board Meeting was called to order by Carol Nieters at 7:05 PM.

Carol Nieters shared the opening prayer with the Board.

- Pastor Ken shared with the Board the Pastor's Report. Pastor Ken shared with the Board that a summer intern has been found. Amanda Lee Gibbs will start May 27th and be with us until August 10th. She is a junior at Culver-Stockton College. She is from Witten, IA. Pastor Ken shared several different areas that she will be working with, including Kid's Cafe, Vacation Bible School, and Children's Church among other things.
- Pastor Ken also shared a concern with facility use for weddings for parties that are non-members of Altoona Christian Church and do not want to participate in any of the counseling or using the Pastor of our Church. The facility use fee of \$200 is on the very low end of churches in are area.
- Paultette Craggs made a motion to raise the fee for use of our sanctuary from \$200 to now become \$500 for parties that are non-members of Altoona Christian Church and not using the resident Pastor. Anna Hines seconded the motion. No discussion took place--motion carried.
- Pastor Ken shared that he has been asked to serve the Regional Board as Chair of the Unit of Property and Investments Committee. If elected in October, he would start serving in January of 2009 and would serve a two year term. The position would take around 10 to 12 hours a month of his time. He wanted to receive feedback from our Board to see if they would support him. It was suggested that as long as it didn't interfere with him addressing the needs of our congregation, it would be a great opportunity for Pastor Ken to share his talents with the Region.
- Pastor Ken indicated that Angela Doty will be providing the message for services on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.
- Tim McLean shared the Treasurer's Report. It was pointed out the March was a good month for giving. Jeff Zaugg shared a new report with each of the committee chairs that itemizes expenditures applied to their corresponding committee as applied to budget.
- Lonita McLean asked when Vacation Bible School would take place. Pastor Ken indicated that it would be August 4th-7th from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM.
- Anna Hines shared that the next potluck dinner would be May 18th in conjunction with the presence of Linda Hanson who is serving as a missionary. There will also be a graduation celebration on May 25th, a Camp Potluck on June 8th, and a picnic in August for the summer intern departure. Anna also shared that there will be a fundraiser for the Puppet Troop with memorial balls being sold for \$3.00 a piece. The clear balls will allow a slip of paper to be inserted which will contain the name of a loved one.
- Carol Genovese shared that the Outreach Committee will be helping with Hope Ministries on May 31st from 9:00 until 2:30. Items needed are bottled water, cans of beef stew, toilet paper, and sandwiches (ham or turkey with cheese).

Old Business:

- Carol Nieters shared on behalf of Stephanie Hosier, who could not be present at this meeting, that the Nominating Committee is working to find a Chair for the Education Committee. The Nominating Committee did nominate Darlene Townsend as a Diaconate replacement to serve the rest of 2008.
- David Peebler made a motion to accept the nomination of Darlene Townsend as a member of the Diaconate to serve the remainder of 2008. Carol Genovese seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Doug Teuber that the Building Committee has been put together and would be having their first meeting in the near future. Members are Doug Teuber serving as chair along with Scott Hamilton, Inga Brown, Alan Petrie, Mike Nelson, Scott Stuart, and Denise Green.
- Carol Nieters shared an update with the Board on the Search Committee for an Associate Pastor. The committee is currently conducting the congregational survey. 26 responses have been received so far. A follow-up e-mail will be sent to encourage more participation.

New Business:

No new business was brought forth.

Conclusion:

Prayer joys and concerns were shared. Pastor Ken closed the meeting with prayer at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David Peebler
Board Secretary

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

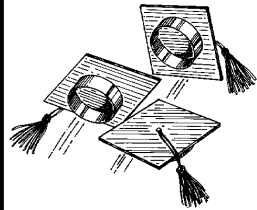
Date	Time	Event
1 Thu	9:30-11 am	Parents & Toddler Group
	7 pm	Choir Practice
	6-8 pm	Girl Scouts Fellowship Hall
2-Fri	6 pm	Puppet Dinner Theater
3-Sat	8 am	Breast Cancer Walk
	9 am	Outreach Rebuilding Together
	6 pm	Puppet Dinner Theater
4-Sun	9:15 am	Adult Bible Class
	9:15 am	Elder's Meeting
	12 pm	Puppet Dinner Theater
	6 pm	Dave Ramsey class
5-Mon	7 pm	Boy Scouts Leader Meeting
6-Tue	7 pm	Learn to Ring Bells
	6:30 pm	Pastoral Relations Comm.Mtg.
7-Wed	2:30-4:30 pm	Puppets 3rd-6th Grade & Chime Choir
	6:30 pm	Bell Choir
8-Thu	9:30-11 am	Parents & Toddler Group
	6-8 pm	Girl Scouts Fellowship Hall
	7 pm	Choir Practice
10-Sat	8am-12pm	Christian Men's Fellowship meeting
	9am-2pm	Scrapbooking Event
11-Sun	9:15 am	Adult Bible Class
	4-5:30-7pm	Jr. & Sr. High Puppets & SNL
	6 pm	Dave Ramsey Class
12-Mon	6 pm	Boy Scout Cake Bake
	7 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
13-Tue	7 pm	Learn to Ring Bells
	7 pm	Outreach Meeting
	7 pm	Permanent Endowment Meeting
14-Wed	2:30-4:30 pm	Puppets 3rd-6th Grade & Chime Choir
	6:30 pm	Bell Choir
	7 pm	Permanent Endowment Meeting

Date	Time	Event
15-Thu	9:30-11 am	Parents & Toddler Group
	7 pm	Choir Practice
16-Fri	5 pm	Osmun/Long Wedding Rehearsal
17-Sat	1 pm	Osmun/Long Wedding
	6 pm	Young at Heart
18-Sun		Food Pantry & Jufri Longdong Sunday
	9:15 am	Adult Bible Class
	11:45 am	Pastoral Relations Comm. Mtg.
	2 pm	Barb Hulen's Piano Recital
	4-5:30-7pm	Jr. & Sr. High Puppets & SNL
	6 pm	Dave Ramsey Class
19-Mon	6 pm	Christian Education Meeting
	7 pm	Board Meeting
20-Tue	12 pm	CWF Meeting at Old Chicago in Ankeny
	6 pm	Girl Scouts Fellowship Hall
	7 pm	Learn to Ring Bells
21-Wed	2:30-4:30 pm	Puppets 3rd-6th Grade & Chime Choir
	6:30 pm	Bell Choir
22-Thu	9:30-11 am	Parents & Toddler Group
	7 pm	Choir Practice
25-Sun	9:15 am	Adult Bible Class
	12 pm	Graduation Celebration for ACC Graduates
	4-5:30-7pm	Jr. & Sr. High Puppets & SNL
	6 pm	Dave Ramsey Class
26-Mon		Memorial Day
27-Tue	7 pm	Learn to Ring Bells
28-Wed	2:30-4:30 pm	Puppets 3rd-6th Grade & Chime Choir
	6:30 pm	Bell Choir
29-Thu	9:30-11am	Parents & Toddler Group
	7 pm	Choir Practice
31-Sat	9 am	Hope Ministries Outreach Serving @ Tent City



Heaven's Handful Puppet Team

will be selling memorial globes for a Memorial Day tree starting May 10th. The globes will be displayed on the tree. Each globe will have the name of the person you want to remember attached to it. The cost is \$3.00 each. After Memorial Day you may take the globe home. There will be a table in the Narthex where you can purchase your globe. Thanks so much for supporting the Puppet Team.



Graduation Celebration

will be on May 25th.

Congratulation to Natasha Briggs, Kelsey Cullinan and Leslie Stahowick. Please come and wish them well as we help them celebrate their accomplishments. Enjoy a cup of punch, a piece of cake, and their displays of memories.

Zachary L. Bury
Graduation Open House
Saturday, May 17
3:30— 6:30 pm

At the home of Zach, Doug and
Debbie Pfeiffer

25781 Grace Circle, Glenwood,
IA 51534

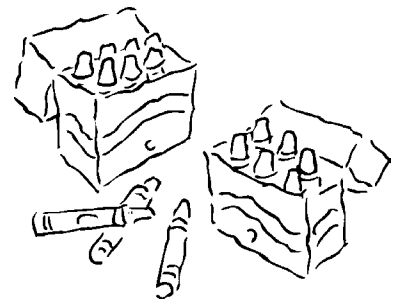
(Please call Doug— 712-520-9222— for directions)

Jump Start Pre-Kindergarten Summer Session

Students entering kindergarten this fall have a chance to get a "jump start" for school. Central Place is sponsoring a five-week summer session focusing on kindergarten readiness, "Jump Start". The session will be Monday through Friday, June 9- July 11, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. (except July 4). Priority for enrollment will be given to children who have not had any type of preschool experience, or who show evidence of need for additional kindergarten readiness even if they have been involved in a preschool setting. Jump Start has no income guidelines, and while summer sessions are located at Clay, Delaware, Mitchellville, and Willowbrook Elementary schools, students entering kindergarten at any Southeast Polk elementary are eligible.

Parents must commit to having their child attend the entire session, and attend an orientation prior to enrollment. Two orientation sessions will be available, Tuesday, May 27, 5 p.m. and Thursday, May 29, 5 p.m. Location of orientation is to be determined and parents of enrolled students will be contacted to indicate which session they can attend. Transportation may be provided for families with demonstrated need.

Breakfast and lunch are included each day, and there is no cost for the session. For more information, or to enroll your child, contact Central Place at 967-7806. Enrollment deadline is May 23.

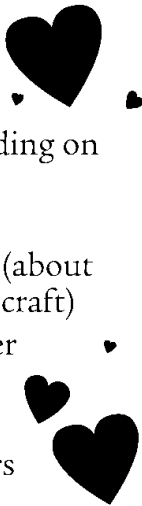


A HEART FOR Mom

Show Mom how much you appreciate all she does for you with this "heartfelt" craft. Give it to her on Mother's Day.

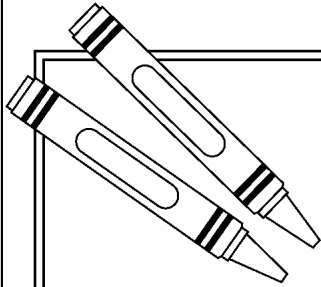
What you need:

- Floral stem wire
- Dried cranberries (about 100, depending on the wire's length)
- Pliers
- Decorative ribbon (about 12 inches for each craft)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Hole punch
- Crayons or markers



What you do:

1. With an adult's help, thread cranberries, one at a time with no space between them, onto the straight wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape.
3. With pliers, twist the wire together at the top of the heart.
4. Tie ribbon to make a loop atop the heart (so your mom can hang it up).
5. Fold the paper into a card, and write a message of love and gratitude to your mom. You might want to add a verse from Proverbs 31 that best describes her.
6. Punch a hole in the card. Attach it to the ribbon that's tied to the heart.



Just for KIDS

A Mother of Noble Character

In Proverbs 31 (NIV), God provides the best example of a godly woman. Write the number of the sentence in the space next to the character quality it best describes.

- 1 "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies" (v. 10).
- 2 "She brings [her husband] good, not harm, all the days of her life" (v. 12).
- 3 "She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands" (v. 13).
- 4 "She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks" (v. 17).
- 5 "She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy" (v. 20).
- 6 "When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet" (v. 21).
- 7 "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (v. 30).

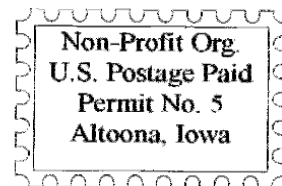
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|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| ___ Caring | ___ Godly | ___ Prepared |
| ___ Hardworking | ___ Hearty | ___ Priceless |
| | ___ Kind | |

Answers: 1. priceless, 2. kind, 3. hardworking, 4. hearty, 5. caring, 6. prepared, 7. godly

The Deadline for The Welcome News is the 20th of the month. Please put articles in the Newsletter box at church or email to Kristina@dsmrepair.com

ALTOONA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

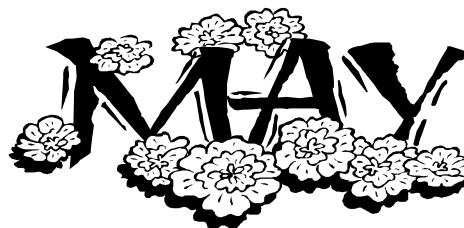
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 fax: 515-967-5112
 Ken's Cell: 515-314-6494
 Ken's email: RevKBriggsACC@msn.com
 Church email: altoonadcc@msn.com
 Website: altoonachristianchurch.org

Church Staff and Volunteers

- Pastor Kenneth Briggs Jr.
- Office Coordinator Cheri Waddell
- Children's Ministry Director.....
- Choir Director Barb Hulen
- Bell & Chime Choir Director.....Paulette Craggs
- Electronic Keyboardist/Organist .. Ron Rieckmann
- Electronic Keyboardist Penny Zaugg
- Children's Choir Director Penny Zaugg
- * Puppet Troop Leader..... Georgia Woodward
- * Visitation Minister Bob Stuart
- Wedding Coordinator Becky Rosenberger
- Custodians..... Dave and Kristy Leinen
- * Newsletter Editor Kristina Steffes-Clayton
- Nursery Attendant... Jennifer Beckett & Becca Kerr
- * Office Volunteer.....Linda Shaw & Betty Cooper
- * Volunteer Position



Goal for Ministry:
 The goal for ministry of the Altoona Christian Church
 through the year is:
 To seek people for Christ, especially children,
 youth and older adults through encouraging
 belief and service.

Mission Statement:
 We believe Christ has touched our hearts and spirits
 with God's love. Therefore, we seek to care for and
 love each other, serving in Christ's name that God's
 Spirit may touch others through us.

Altoona Christian Church