

THE STILL SMALL VOICE

NEWSLETTER FOR TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THE GREEN



Dear Friends,

This past month I attended The Episcopal Church's General Convention in Anaheim, California for nearly two weeks. I served on the Communication staff for The Episcopal Church, working specifically for

Episcopal Life Online. This was my third General Convention, and I have to admit this one was definitely different from the previous two conventions in many ways.

The most notable way was the loss of a diversity of voices. Many people within the "conservative" movement of The Episcopal Church chose to leave The Episcopal Church and start their own dioceses and churches. From talking to some "conservatives," they felt as if they were forced out. While I do not see it that way, they are still no longer a part of the discussion and that saddens me for a number of reasons.

I do not really believe in labels such as "conservative," "liberal," "Orthodox" or "progressive." These are categories that do not foster healthy discussion and do not address the complexity and humanity of who we are as individuals made in the image of God.

The wonderful thing about having people with a diversity of opinion is that we hold each other accountable. In the Church, we do not do something simply because we feel or think it is the right thing to do. We also believe that God is constantly calling us to new and exciting ways of being the Church in a constantly changing world.

As Episcopalian/Anglicans, we are called to use the tools of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason to discern where God is calling us to go and who God is calling us to be as the Church. These three tools are to be used equally and kept in balance at all times. Balance is something The Episcopal Church has taken pride in over the centuries.

This often means that various people along the spectrum of opinion on any issue are left feeling uncomfortable. Episcopalians have been accustomed to living in this discomfort and ambiguity; these have been hallmarks of Anglicanism. Previously, we were all able to stay

at the table with those who held differing views. This has never been easy; however, we have been pretty good at it throughout our turbulent history.

I was once told an African proverb that may apply to our present state of affairs, "If you want to go fast, you go alone. If you want to go far, you go together." Recently, I worry that The Episcopal Church sometimes has a need for speed.

I personally believe that the actions of the General Convention were in the direction of God's will and moved us one step closer towards being God's kingdom here on earth. I also recognize that this is my opinion, and that we made a few sacrifices to get here. Many people with differing viewpoints left or chose to leave the conversation while other people have felt that they have been excluded from full inclusion in the Church for years.

What I appreciate about Trinity is that we have been able to live in that discomfort of holding a diversity of opinions. We do not always get our way, and things are not always done the way we might have done them, but that is part of being in a healthy community. No one person or even group of people has all the answers. As a church, we discern together and always in a community. The more diverse the voices are, the better the discernment.

With the arrival of our Interim Rector (the Rev. Jim Sell) we will enter a new phase of our own transition process. It is crucial that all our voices are heard as we discern where Trinity is called to be in this next generation. I hope we are all willing to listen to each other, especially with those whom we differ the most. We must become comfortable with a certain level of discomfort.

I pray that we will all remain a part of this holy conversation on which we are about to embark. God is listening.

In Christ,

**August
2009**

Did you know...

During the 1800s, Trinity paid "bellows boys" to manually pump the organ.

Worship Attendance

June 28	
7:45	20
10:00	161
2:00	54
July 5	
7:45	20
10:00	129
2:00	48
July 12	
7:45	21
10:00	140
2:00	43
July 19	
7:45	16
10:00	143
2:00	54
July 26	
7:45	24
10:00	159
2:00	73

Vestry Highlights: June Meeting

Properties Committee: Duo Dickinson explained the handout and that help is needed on Sunday, June 21, to dismantle the undercroft.

Warden's Report: Joe Dzeda reported that the transition is going smoothly. He reminded the Vestry that, especially during this period, they must have their eyes and ears open to the feelings of the Parish. Barbara Hedberg reported that the party for Andy and Polly went very well.

Associate's Report: The Rev. Estelle Webb reported that she will be on vacation until July 6. The Rev Alex Dyer reported that he will be on vacation starting July 5. He also related that the Diocese has given us a \$10,000 grant to hire a coordinator for Chapel on the Green.

Treasurer's Report: Heather Alexopoulos reported on the status of the budget. We are in good shape, but still need to keep our belt tight.

Undercroft Piano: Joe Dzeda explained about the status of the piano. Because it requires constant maintenance the thought is to sell it and use the money to buy an electronic piano. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the undercroft piano be sold and that the money from the sale be used to buy an electronic piano. The motion was approved. Additionally, a motion was made and seconded that Walden Moore and the Wardens be

authorized to sell or store the undercroft piano at their discretion. The motion was approved.

Stewardship: Barbara Hedberg explained that we need to have a strong campaign, even in these hard times. The committee will be meeting in several weeks.

Choir Development: Barbara Hedberg explained that a group of choir parents wants to start a choir development fund campaign. These funds would be used for such expenses as travel and choir camp, and other recurring items. Discussion followed as to how this could be done.

Canon for Transition Ministry: The Rev. Erik Larsen is coming on June 28 and will be preaching at both services. He will hold a town hall type meeting with parishioners after the 10:00 am service. Following that meeting he will meet separately with the Vestry. Karrie Hendrickson related a conversation she had with Bishop Smith about inviting the Vestry to tour Diocesan House.

Staff Salaries: Joe Dzeda reminded everyone that the Vestry had promised the staff that it would review the status of their salaries six months after the budget was passed. He reported that the status of the budget is such that we are not able to give cost of living increases at this time. Discussion followed.

A Note from Andy



Dear Trinity Friends,

Since my last Sunday at Trinity I've presided at Zeke's wedding in Massachusetts, spent a relaxing time on the coast of Maine with Polly, and managed to achieve a pretty decent tan between the periods of rain.

I want you all to know how grateful I am for my many years among you as your rector, and for the wonderful send-off you gave me at the farewell dinner.

Polly and I also want to extend our thanks for the purse to which many of you contributed. We didn't open the envelope until we returned home and were stunned into unaccustomed silence by the amount of your collective gift.

We have no way of thanking you individually, since the sources and amounts of each donation have been kept secret, but please know that we see your gift as one more example of Trinity's generous spirit.

Polly and I have been blessed by all of our wonderful friendships begun at Trinity. You are and will remain very dear to us.

Much love,

Andy

Pastoral Ministries



Prayer list reminder: Please note that the Church prayer list and the Circle of Caring prayer list are separate lists and do not share names. If you or a family member are ill and you want to be in the Sunday prayers, please notify the church office. If you have someone else to pray

for or if you also want to be on the COC please contact Gloria Hoda personally or by email at gloria.hoda@yale.edu. Thank you.

Hospital Visits: Due to privacy regulations, hospitals no longer provide clergy access to their census. Therefore it is important to remember that the only way we know that you or your loved one is in the hospital is if you contact us. Please call the church office and notify Elida so that she can contact the clergy on call. Off hours please call the clergy directly; The Rev. Estelle Webb at 687-8622 (cell).

Upcoming Work Day at Habitat



Trinity will have a work day at Sleeping Giant Build - Habitat for Humanity on **Saturday, August 8 at 9:00 am**. Contact Leigh Lindsay for more information at 248-7188 or leighlindsay@sbcglobal.net.

Trinity's Refugee Family

By Ed Stannard



Elizabeth and Margie Pikaart help prepare the apartment for our refugee family.

On **July 1**, Leigh Lindsay, co-chair of the Community Works Committee, sent out the word: An Iraqi refugee family was on its way! The committee had decided we would like to co-sponsor a family with IRIS, but didn't expect it to happen so soon! That night, an emergency meeting was held and the committee voted unanimously to say yes to this new adventure.

The first sign that God was with us came that very evening, with a place for them to live! Parishioner Marge Eichler has an apartment and was willing to rent it to them at a very reasonable rate.

But the apartment needed fixing up, so volunteers got to work. On **July 9**, Leigh sent out an update: "Old carpet has been removed, the walls have been painted, new carpet has been installed, flowers have been planted, windows have been washed, the bathroom has been fixed up." There was still work to be done, but we were on our way. Many parishioners provided time, donated furniture, dishware, linens and toys.

On **Tuesday, July 14**, the family arrived: Moeid and Nadia and their children Nora, Maha, Othman, and 4-month-old

Ade!! By that afternoon, the children were playing with their neighbors, the Eichler children, and exploring their new home. They're happy to be here and eager to learn.

Because of their status as refugees, it's important that the family's privacy be respected. That's why we can't give their last name or show a photo of them. Hopefully, the parish will get a chance to meet them once they feel comfortable.

Next comes the task of settling in, navigating paperwork and medical appointments, registering for school, learning English and finding a job for Moeid, who is willing to do anything he can to start supporting his family. Connecticut Food Bank helps with groceries, but they need to get to the supermarket for other items, such as infant formula.

We need people to help, especially with babysitting, so that the parents can go to English classes each day. Because of Safe Church principles, two non-related adults have to be present with the children. The family also needs to be driven to different appointments.

If you can pitch in, even occasionally, it would be a great help. Contact our coordinator, Kim Morris, at kimwimgoddess@gmail.com.

Thanks to all who have supported the family so far on their — and our — journey!

Meet your new Bishop

The slate of nominees for 15th diocesan bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut was announced **July 1**.

For more details, including introductory videos and material to help prayerful discernment, visit the Search/Nominating Committee's website at: www.ctbishopslection.com.

Additional information on the nominees and in-person meeting opportunities was also in the summer issue of the diocesan newspaper, Good News.

Candidates include:



The Right Reverend James E. Curry*
Age: 61
Current position: Suffragan Bishop of Connecticut
*nominated under Suffragan Bishop Process



The Reverend Mark Delcuze
Age: 50
Current position: Rector, St. Stephens, Ridgefield, Connecticut



The Reverend Dr. Ian Douglas, Ph.D.
Age: 50
Current positions: Angus Dun Professor of Mission and World Christianity at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts and Associate Priest at St. James's Church, Cambridge,

Massachusetts



The Reverend Beth Fain
Age: 57
Current position: Rector, St. Mary's, Cypress, Texas

Meet the candidates October 2 - October 3

Meet the candidates on **Friday evening October 2**, starting at **7:00 pm**, at a "town hall" style event at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, or the next day, **October 3**, starting at **1:00 pm**, for a "traditional walkabout" at Trinity, Southport. All candidates, including any added by petition, will participate in both events.

Presiding Bishop's letter to the church on General Convention



My brothers and sisters in Christ:

The 76th General Convention is now history, though it will likely take some time before we are all reasonably clear about what the results are.

We gathered in Anaheim, as guests of the Diocese of Los Angeles, for eleven full days of worship, learning, and policy-making. The worship was stunning visually, musically, and liturgically, with provocative preaching and lively singing.

Our learning included training in Public Narrative, as well as news about the emergent church, in the LA Night presentation.

We welcomed a number of visitors from other parts of the Anglican Communion, including 15 of the primates (archbishops or presiding bishops), other bishops, clergy, and laity.

You can see and hear all this and more at the Media Hub: <http://gchub.episcopalchurch.org/>

The budget adopted represents a significant curtailment of church-wide ministry efforts, in recognition of the economic realities of many dioceses and church endowments, which will result in the loss of a number of Church Center staff who have given long and laudable service. Yet we will continue to serve God's mission, throughout The Episcopal Church and beyond. This budget expects that more mission work will continue or begin to take place at diocesan or congregational levels. Religious pilgrims, from the Israelites in the desert to Episcopalians in Alaska or Haiti, have always learned that times of leanness are opportunities for strengthened faith and creativity.

As a Church, we have deepened our commitments to mission and ministry with "the least of these" (Matthew 25). We included a budgetary commitment of 0.7% to the Millennium Development Goals, through the *NetsforLife*® program partnership of Episcopal Relief & Development. That is in addition to approximately 15% of the budget already committed to international development work.

We have committed to a domestic poverty initiative, meant to explore coherent and constructive responses to some of the worst poverty statistics in the Americas: Native American reservations and indigenous communities.

Justice is the goal, as we revised our canons (church rules) having to do with clergy discipline, both as an act of solidarity with those who may suffer at the hands of clergy and an act of pastoral concern for clergy charged with misconduct.

The General Convention adopted a health plan to serve all clergy and lay employees, which is expected to be a

cost-savings across the whole of the United States portion of the Church. Work continues to ensure adequate health coverage in the non-U.S. parts of this Church. The Convention also mandated pension coverage for lay employees.

Liturgical additions were also included in the Convention's work, from more saints on the calendar to prayers around reproductive loss.

What captured the headlines across the secular media, however, had to do with two resolutions, the consequences of which were often misinterpreted or exaggerated. One, identified as D025, is titled "Anglican Communion: Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion." It

- reaffirms our commitment to and desire to pursue mission with the Anglican Communion;
- reiterates our commitment to Listening Process urged by Lambeth Conferences of 1978, 1988, and 1998;
- notes that our own participation in the listening process led General Convention in 2000 to "recognize that the baptized membership of The Episcopal Church includes same-sex couples living in lifelong committed relationships 'characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God'";
- recognizes that ministry, both lay and ordained is being exercised by such persons in response to God's call;
- notes that the call to ordained ministry is God's call, is a mystery, and that the Church participates in that mystery through the process of discernment;
- acknowledges that the members of The Episcopal Church, and of the Anglican Communion, are not of one mind, and that faithful Christians disagree about some of these matters.

The other resolution that received a lot of press is C056, titled "Liturgies for Blessings." The text adopted was a substitute for the original, yet the title remains unchanged. It

- acknowledges changing circumstances in the U.S. and elsewhere, in that civil jurisdictions in some places permit marriage, civil unions, and/or domestic partnerships involving same-sex couples, that call for a pastoral response from this Church;
- asks the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, and the House of Bishops, to collect and develop theological and liturgical resources for such pastoral response, and report to the next General Convention;

(Continues on next page)

- asks those bodies to invite comment and participation from other parts of this Church and the Anglican Communion;
- notes that bishops may provide generous pastoral responses to the needs of members of this Church;
- asks the Convention to honor the theological diversity of this Church in regard to matters of human sexuality.

The full text of both resolutions is available here: <http://gc2009.org/ViewLegislation>. I urge you to read them for yourself. Some have insisted that these resolutions repudiate our relationships with other members of the Anglican Communion. My sense is that we have been very clear that we value our relationships within and around the Communion, and seek to deepen them. My sense as well is that we cannot do that without being honest about who and where we are. We are obviously not of one mind, and likely will not be until Jesus returns in all his glory. We are called by God to continue to wrestle with the circumstances in which we live and move and have our being, and to do it as carefully and faithfully as we are able, in companionship with those who disagree vehemently and agree wholeheartedly. It is only in that wrestling that we, like Jacob, will begin to discern the leading of the Spirit and the blessing of relationship with God.

Above all else, this Convention claimed God's mission as the heartbeat of The Episcopal Church. I encourage every member of this Church to enter into conversation in your own congregation or diocese about God's mission, and where you and your faith community are being invited to enter more deeply into caring for your neighbors, the "least of these" whom Jesus befriends.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
 The Episcopal Church

Save the Date for Our Parish Picnic

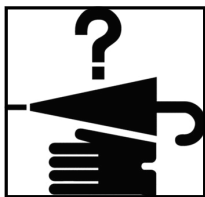


We invite you to celebrate our life as a Parish by attending The Trinity Church Parish Picnic.

This year's Parish Picnic will take place on **Sunday, October 4 at 12:30 pm** at *The Carousel Building* at

Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven.

Lost & Found



People should check the lost and found in the Sexton's office at the rear of the church. We have lots of glasses, sunglasses, scarves, gloves and other items.

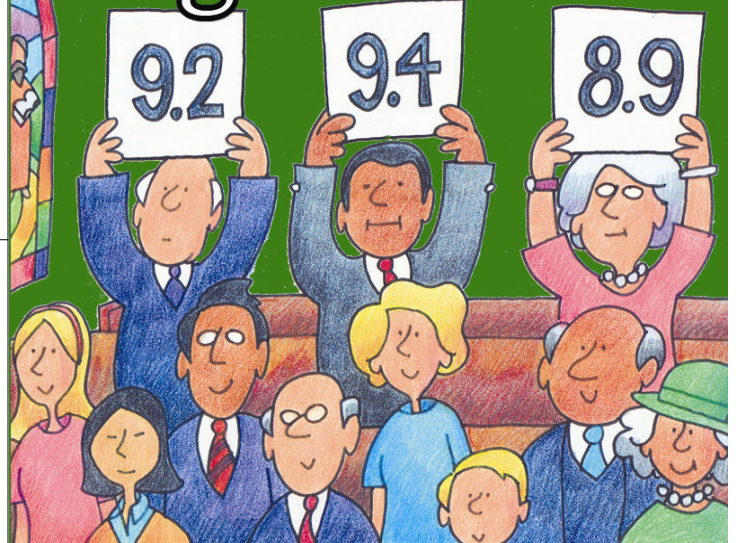
If you have lost an item at church, see our sextons, Boris or Justin, or call (203) 865-3930.

Welcoming Our Interim Rector



The Rev. James Sell

First sermon at Trinity August 9



Trinity Book Group 2009-2010 Schedule

Hosts for Book Group	Date	Book	Author	
Carolyn & Leroy Gould	Saturday, September 19, 2009 - 5:30 pm	Loving Frank	Nancy Horan	Pot luck
Boyd & Julianne Griffin	Tuesday, October 27, 2009 - 7:30pm	Christ the Lord, Out of Egypt	Anne Rice	
Jennifer Briggs	Monday, December 7, 2009 - 7:30pm	Suite Française	Irène Némirovsky	
Peg Chambers	Monday, January 11, 2010 - 7:30pm	Dreams from my Father	Barack Obama	
Deborah & Gary Desir	Monday, March 1, 2010 - 7:30pm	Body and Soul	Frank Conroy	
Veronica Soell	Monday, April 12, 2010 - 7:30pm	The Clothes on Their Backs	Linda Grant	
Joan Dreyfus	Monday, May 24, 2010 - 6:30pm	The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society	Mary Ann Schaffer and Annie Barrows	End of year pot luck
Nancy Brown & Skip Weldon	Thursday, June 17, 2010 - 7:30pm	No Book: Book Browse		

Education for Ministry at Christ Church, Bethany



At baptism, every Christian receives the call to Christ's ministry. In responding to that call, people may think, "I don't know enough about the Bible, or theology or church history!"

Education for Ministry is a theological education program for laypersons. It provides the basics of a theological education in order to develop knowledge and confidence about the ministry we all share. Participants commit one

year at a time to meet weekly and complete the program over four years.

Christ Church has an active EfM group meeting on **Thursday** evenings from **7:00 pm to 9:30 pm**, mentored by Merle Troeger. Please call her at (203) 389-7766 or contact her at merletroeger@sbcglobal.net.

You may also contact Ellen Freiler, an EfM graduate, at ellenfreiler@sbcglobal.net with questions.

Construction progresses!



Demolition of the Ladies Room.

Protective walls will go up this week around the Chapel Street side door into the Sanctuary. The wall will be up **until November** as the major demolition starts this week. This means that there will be changes in the way we usually take communion at the altar.

The clergy will announce the new movement pattern before communion begins.

There have been a few circumstances revealed in the demolition of the Ladies Room, the storage closet at that level, and the floors where Robert Orr's elevator design will be built in the undercroft. This is not at all unusual for a project like this where so much is hidden from view until demolition.

All pews have been removed at the corner of the Sanctuary in preparation for the Columbarium. Pew parts not recycled into Peg Chambers design will be stored for posterity in the bell tower.

Soon the two westerly stair tower corners will be covered correctly. This will forever prevent rainwater from draining through the formerly flat roofs into the building.

Also note that we have a new temporary ramp at the Green side entry to allow for handicapped (and baby stroller) accessibility.

We should soon have a hard sense of the schedule that will allow The Holiday Bazaar in the Undercroft "the week before Thanksgiving." This is our top priority! Patience, flexibility and humor on all our parts will make this necessary enhancement to our beloved building much less stressful.

Stay tuned!

Duo Dickinson

Trinity Church on the Green
August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 July	27	28	29	30	31	1 August
<i>Youth Mission Trip</i> 7:45a Holy Eucharist Rite 1 10:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 10:00a Discovery Canyon, Choir Room 2:00p Chapel on the Green PROPER 12 Preacher: MR. ROBERT HENDRICKSON, <i>M.Div.</i>	<i>Youth Mission Trip</i>	<i>Youth Mission Trip</i>	<i>Youth Mission Trip</i> 12:10p Eucharist and Healing Service	<i>Youth Mission Trip</i> 12:00p AI Anon Meeting	<i>Youth Mission Trip</i>	<i>Youth Mission Trip</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Youth Mission Trip</i> 7:45a Holy Eucharist Rite 1 10:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 10:00a Discovery Canyon, Choir Room 2:00p Chapel on the Green PROPER 13 Preacher: THE REV. ALEX DYER	<i>The Rev. Jim Sell Begins</i>		12:10p Eucharist and Healing Service	12:00p AI Anon Meeting		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
7:45a Holy Eucharist Rite 1 10:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 10:00a Discovery Canyon, Choir Room 2:00p Chapel on the Green PROPER 14 Preacher: THE REV. JIM SELL, <i>Interim</i> <i>Rector</i>			11:00a Service at Whitney Center 12:10p Eucharist and Healing Service	12:00p AI Anon Meeting	6:00p Wedding Rehearsal - Lightfoot/Thomas	5:00p Wedding - Lightfoot/Thomas
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<i>Girls Choir Camp</i> 7:45a Holy Eucharist Rite 1 10:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 10:00a Discovery Canyon, Choir Room 2:00p Chapel on the Green PROPER 15 Preacher: THE REV. JIM SELL, <i>Interim</i> <i>Rector</i>	<i>Girls Choir Camp</i>	<i>Girls Choir Camp</i>	<i>Girls Choir Camp</i> 12:10p Eucharist and Healing Service 5:30p Stewardship Committee Meeting, Parish Office	<i>Girls Choir Camp</i> 10:30a Service at Marathon Health Care 12:00p AI Anon Meeting 5:30p Vestry Budget Meeting	<i>Girls Choir Camp</i>	<i>Girls Choir Camp</i>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<i>Boys Choir Camp</i> 7:45a Holy Eucharist Rite 1 10:00a Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 2:00p Chapel on the Green PROPER 16 Preacher: THE REV. ALEX DYER	<i>Boys Choir Camp</i> 5:30p Stewardship Committee Meeting, Parish Office	<i>Boys Choir Camp</i>	<i>Boys Choir Camp</i> 11:00a Service at Whitney Center 12:10p Eucharist and Healing Service	<i>Boys Choir Camp</i> 12:00p AI Anon Meeting	<i>Boys Choir Camp</i>	<i>Boys Choir Camp</i>
30	31	1 September	2	3	4	5
7:45a Holy Eucharist Rite 1 10:00a Holy Baptism & Eucharist, Rite 2 2:00p Chapel on the Green PROPER 17 Preacher: THE REV. ESTELLE WEBB			12:10p Eucharist and Healing Service	12:00p AI Anon Meeting		



Trinity
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

Parish Office:

129 Church Street,
Suite # 705
New Haven, CT 06510

Phone: 203-624-3101

Fax: 203-624-2412

E-mail: trinity.church@snet.net

Website: www.trinitynewhaven.org

Music Office:

Phone: 203-776-2616

Parish Administrator:

Sherrill Farkas

Phone: 203-776-2606

E-mail: shesh@snet.net

THE STILL SMALL VOICE

A Newsletter of Trinity on the Green

THE MISSION OF TRINITY CHURCH

God's love calls us to proclaim with joy the good news of Jesus Christ, to welcome all people into the community of faith, and to serve Christ through serving others.

THE MINISTERS OF TRINITY

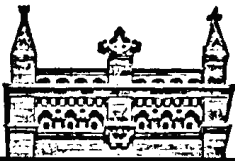
All the people of Trinity Church

THE CLERGY:

The Rev. James Sell, *Interim Rector*

The Rev. Estelle Webb, *Associate for Pastoral Ministries*

The Rev. Alex Dyer, *Associate for Parish Life*



Trinity
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

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