



*A Spiritual Oasis Committed to Christ,
to Peace, and to Service*

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

Connections

Newsletter

CPFUMC Church Members,

Have you seen the newly renovated sanctuary? If you have not, it is time to join us at the 10:00 a.m. service.

With services back in person, we ask you to be mindful that the service is live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube. If you have any concerns, don't hesitate to get in touch with the Church Council.

Many of the church ministries are starting again. Would you please get in touch with your group leader?

National Night Out, Tuesday, August 3rd from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will be games, food, and lots of friends to visit and meet. Contact me, 512.970.9087 or carolynsmith2215@gmail.com to be part of the fun.

See you there.

Carolyn Smith, Council Chairman

Last Mile Giving Needed for Sanctuary Renovation



The rubber has hit the road. We are trying to reconcile the storm damage remediation insurance payments, the designated fund balance already raised separately for the rest room renovation and the final invoice from our contractor Qual-Con. The bottom line is we need a little more money.

Unexpected Expenses: The city required us to dig the sewer trench three feet deep from the restrooms to the street. Then we ran into a

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JESUS' ROCK STAR CORNER

Submitted by Carolyn Smith

Beginning July 25th, we are meeting in-person and virtual with our new Sunday School teacher, Debra Longoria. Ms. Debra was on solid ground for her first class, the story of The Wise and Foolish Builders. She helped us to understand we need God to have a solid foundation.

The Children's Ministries need someone or partners to oversee other events;

Empower

Vacation Bible School

Christmas Bible School

If several of us step up to do one part, not only does it not put the burden on one person, but the children get the experience of many other people's views.

Would you please get in touch with Carolyn Smith for more information?

To join our Sunday School Zoom sessions, please contact Carolyn Smith, carolynsmith2215@gmail.com, or Amanda Theriot, Amanda.theriot@icloud.com.

Building Renovation/Restoration Update

What began as a noble project to renovate our restrooms and bring them up to new standards and city codes, also morphed into a recovery and reconstruction effort. You may recall the winter storm earlier this year that caused a major water leak and destroyed parts of the church ceiling, the floors, carpet, and walls. The renovation project was set to start the very week of the winter storm. By God's providence, this was stopped. The water leaks destroyed the walls and ceiling of the restrooms before the renovation started, saving us from having to restore newly renovated restrooms. Still, much work had to be done.

For the past four months crews have been working on renovating and restoring everything that was damaged. We now have beautiful new sanctuary tiles, the hole that was on the sanctuary ceiling was repaired along with the air conditioning ducting. We also have beautiful new restrooms, new carpet, a freshly painted sanctuary and narthex, new lighting in the narthex and new kitchen counter tops. Damaged chairs and hymnals have been replaced. A great deal has taken place and we are now close to the end of this project. There are still many little details pending and we are taking care of those as fast as possible. One of those is the reconnection of hot water to both the kitchen and the restrooms. This should be available soon.

Just as you were all praying for this effort, we ask that you please continue to lift this in prayer to bring it to final consummation. Remember all who were involved, from the insurance company, to the cleaning crews, workers, contractors, service providers, and special thanks to Barbara King and Jane Howard for all their dedication to seeing this through.

God bless, Sergio Longoria, Chair of Trustees

BE LIGHT YOUTH

UMArmy August 2021

UMARMY MISSION REPORT: CPFUMC sent a team of SEVEN YOUTH and two adults to serve along side five other churches from around Texas. We served in the Corpus Christi area June 27- July 2nd. Below is a compilation video of all the pictures taken over the week to give you a visual of the hard work, hard worship and hard play we all participated throughout the week. I also included the email from the director of UMARMY with her summary of all the tasks and impact of our mission team

CPFUMC TEAM!!! (and that includes YOU church family!!!!)

What an amazing week of worship hard, work hard and play hard. Keeping it real for Jesus. The link below is the video with all the pictures.

(double click or copy and paste into your browser; then you can enlarge the video by clicking in the bottom right corner of the picture)

<https://animoto.com/play/ZyAVJ9ly2911aqug0NUXVA>

Below is the summary of all your hard work - bragging rights of what God has accomplished through each one of you. God is Good all the time...

Thank you for stepping up and loving so boldly for Christ.

What an AMAZING week of service, fellowship, worship, silliness and more we enjoyed this past week as 107 of us served our Lord by helping our neighbors throughout the Corpus Christi area completing the following projects:

Wheelchair Ramp Constructed for Consuelo

Wheelchair Ramp Constructed for Jesse

Wheelchair Ramp Constructed for Elizabeth

Tree trimming, mowing and clean up for Marty

Replace back step, handrail and straighten fence for Angela

Fence Constructed for St. Luke's UMC

Yard Clean Up at St. Luke's UMC

Framing of Habitat for Humanity Home

Helped at the Habitat ReStore

15-20 Bags of Trash Picked up at Mustang Island State Park

Shower dividers constructed for our mission teams at Veteran's Memorial High School

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BE LIGHT continued from p. 3

Asbury UMC parking lot striped

Asbury UMC prayer garden cleaned up

Asbury UMC VBS decorations taken down

Coastal Bend Food Bank: 26,944 lbs of donations sorted and inspected creating 8,981 meals

So here are the stats:

There were 107 of us total working approximately 8 hours/day with prep and clean up included which equals a total of 3,424 hours of service over the past 4 work days (Monday-Thursday) which gives an economic impact of \$51,360 to the community of Corpus Christi

Our work is significant and truly created a better standard of living for many of our neighbors down south along the coast in Corpus Christi

My hope and prayer are that you all are getting some much needed R&R and my heart is so FULL from the amazing work accomplished including safety for all participants and encounters with God.

Peace and blessings,

Jenny Monahan

UM ARMY-Rio Texas

riotx.umarmy.org

512.557.0513

Providing Christ-centered missions that serve people in need and promote spiritual growth and leadership development in youth and young adults.

LOOKING AHEAD FOR YOUTH

Sunday, Aug 1: work on YOUTH room, lunch and hand-out flyers around the church for Neighborhood Party night

Tuesday, Aug 3rd: Neighborhood Party - Gigi needs all hands on deck to assist with games, and the graffiti wall.

Sunday, Aug 8: Blessing of the Backpacks in 10am worship

Sunday, Aug 15th no YOUTH

Sunday, Aug 22nd ZOOM planning meeting

Sunday, Aug 29th: TBA

SEEKING LUNCH SPONSORS FOR YOUTH ONCE MORE

Please contact Pastor Suzette to make or pay for lunch for the YOUTH (\$50 covers pizzas or tacos or salads). PastorSuzette@cpfumc.org

We need August 1st and 29th sponsored [then every weekend going forward into the school year.](#)

Peace, Pastor Suzette

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boat load of limestone rock; I would expect nothing less since I live next to a limestone quarry. The city said we had to get rid of our existing toilets, which we had planned to reuse, and put in new low-flow toilets to meet code – that costs another \$800.

We also made some “I would like changes” called Change Order Notices by the contractor. Who wouldn’t want matching kitchen counters? Why would we want to keep a door to nowhere from the altar to the back of a storage room book shelf filled from the closet side with essential items that need to be stored. No one has walked from the altar through that door to the closet in decades. That trench alone has added \$8,000 to the cost of the project. Then we did upgrade to the new wood-look tile floors – everyone on the committee knew that would increase the total cost, but the result is gorgeous.

Altogether we are somewhere between \$10,000 and \$20,000 short on contributed funds to pay for this project and the final invoice from the contractor. So, here’s the deal, if you like the outcome of all the storm damage remediation and the restroom renovation, can you consider giving a one-time contribution toward project unexpected costs?

We certainly don’t want to get the money by increasing our mortgage, since we are trying to pay that down to nothing. Please help by giving whatever you can (call it an index of gratitude for all the changes offering) and label your gift **Sanctuary Renovation Project**.

Free Landscape Rocks



We have some leftover rocks (three about the same size) from our trench work.

Does someone have a need for some decorative rocks in their garden – perhaps a new xeriscape project?

Contact the Trustees for this free trio.

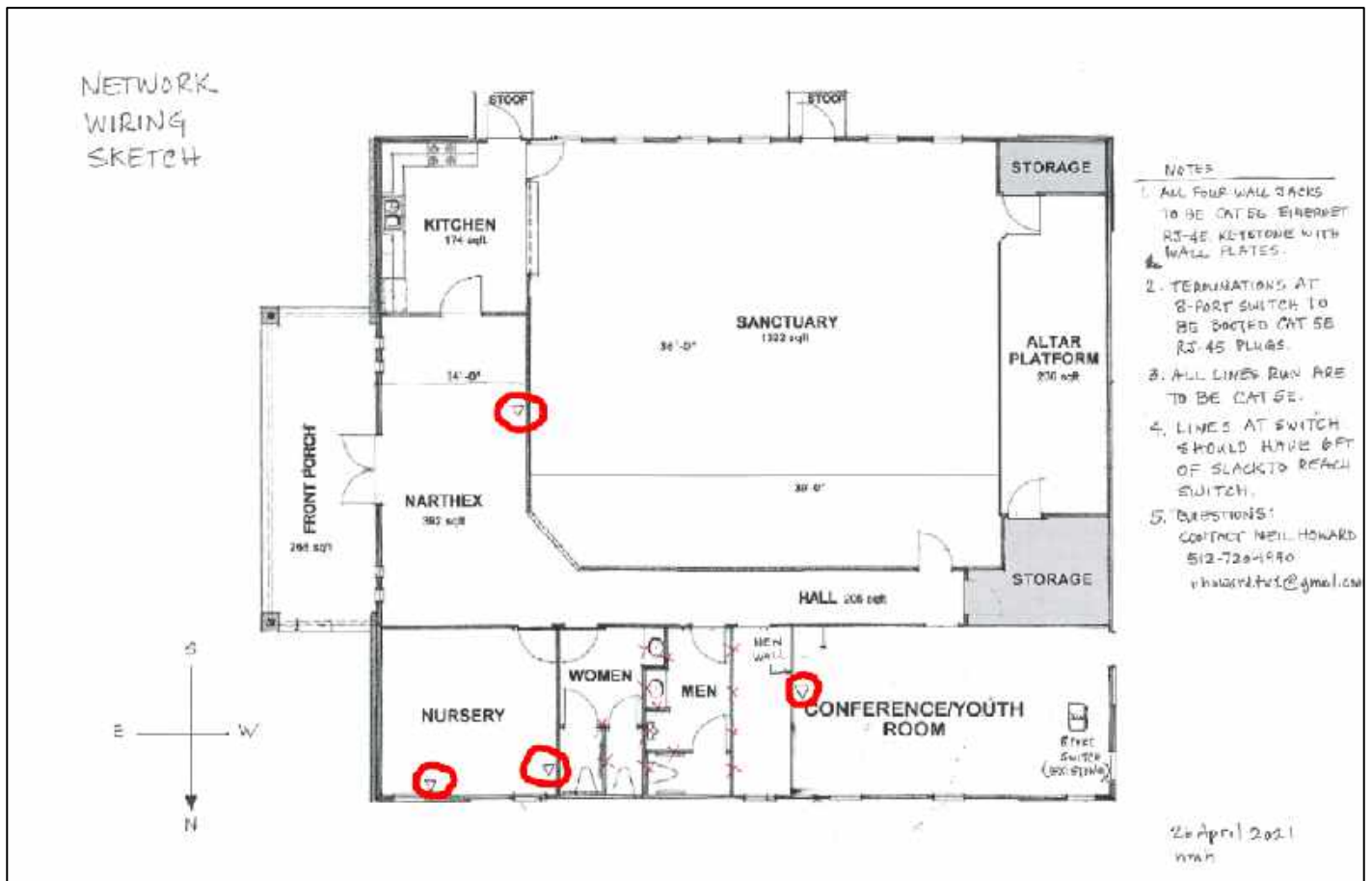
Network Upgrades Completed

As our ministries reach out more and more by electronic means, it makes sense to look at improving our network infrastructure. To support this, network hardware upgrades have been made in the sanctuary and multi-ministries buildings. These upgrades were approved by the Trustees and paid for by our Technology Fund. They did not impact our 2021 operating budget.

Sanctuary Building Network Upgrades

During the recent Sanctuary building renovation and remediation work, we took advantage of the fact that the walls in the sanctuary were all torn up due to flooding remediation. What better time to run some more wire and install a few network jacks in a building that was originally built in 1986 before local area hardwired networks were popular?

Here is the plan for the additions which we made:



We already had network jacks in the sanctuary nave and the west end of the youth room. This was from work originally done in 2014 and during the construction of the sound booth in 2020. During this year's building renovation and remediation, we added four more hard-wired network jacks, one each in the narthex and east end of the youth room, plus two in the nursery.

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One of the network jacks installed in the nursery is dedicated to a wireless access point which is installed in a window sill there. This extends our Wi-Fi network outside the building allowing us to connect with and manage a possible future electronic road sign to replace our existing fixed main road sign. A Qual-Con subcontractor performed the work. The cost of this addition was about \$690.

Multi-Ministries Building Network Upgrades

The Multi-Ministries building (MMB) was completed in 2005. It was already partially wired for networking with network jacks in the church office, pastor’s office and one classroom. There were 10 partially-used spools of Cat5 network cable still stored since original construction in the MMB attic. Why not put this network cable to use by wiring the rest of the MMB for hard-wired network jacks?

Here was the plan approved by the Trustees:



We added five additional duplex network drops: two duplex drops (4 jacks) in the conference room and one duplex jack each in classrooms 2 and 4 and also one duplex jack in the large

NETWORK continued on p. 8

classroom at the end of the hall. All of these network jacks were duplex drops, meaning that each drop had two separate network jacks in a single duplex faceplate. We had plenty of leftover Cat5 cable, so our existing cable stock was finally put to use wiring these additional jacks.

Lighting Up the Fiber

In 2014, our hard-wired network had been extended from the MMB to the sanctuary building by constructing an underground conduit containing two Cat5e lines and one fiber line. The fiber line was never activated and lay dormant until now. Part of this year's network upgrade project was to terminate and connect the fiber link to make it useful. This required purchasing equipment (switches and fiber transceivers) capable of connecting fiber as well as regular Cat5e network cable.

The MMB network drops and fiber terminations were completed on June 8 by Cable Com, Inc.



The cost of this portion of the network upgrade was about \$1800, paid for by the Technology Fund administered by the Trustees.

Here is the fiber and Cat5e cable termination point in the Sanctuary nave. It is now hidden behind a curtain (designed and made by Jane Howard) in the northwest corner of the room.

The Result

The result of all of this network upgrading work is that we now have both hard-wired gigabit LAN and 230Mbps Internet access in all of the church buildings. This goes along with the Wi-Fi network and Internet access which was already being provided by our main router and three wireless access points, two in each building. Our Wi-Fi signal extends beyond the buildings to include the pumpkin patch area and the Memorial outdoor sanctuary.

Westlake UMC Water Ministry

Hello fellow colleagues,

As many of you are aware, for over three years Westlake United Methodist Church has been involved with an ongoing ministry at the Texas border with the asylum seekers. Many of you helped with the initial funding of water for the camp in Matamoros back in May 2019. While the original project has transitioned and changed, we are still funding water (and other services) in Matamoros.



When we reached out to you in the summer of 2019, we were providing bottled water to the asylum seekers. At that point there were approximately 100 asylum seekers in the camp. That number eventually expanded to over 3,000. Somewhere in the middle of 2020, we transitioned from providing bottled water to a system in which we installed large water tanks and filled those tanks with water transported from the City of Matamoros water treatment plant. We had the water tested repeatedly, and each time the water was deemed potable, but we treated it again once it was on onsite, and we installed heavy-duty filters as an added precaution. This greatly expanded the amount of water we could provide and allowed us to serve many more asylum seekers and to provide water for bathing and laundry.

With the help of many generous people and organizations and by God's never-failing Grace, we continued to provide water until the camp was permanently closed in March 2021. At that time, the US and Mexican governments allowed most of the asylum seekers who were in MPP (the Trump-era program entitled "Migrant Protection Program" which is also known as "remain in Mexico") and still living in the camp to cross into the US. Unfortunately, some asylum seekers who should have been allowed to cross into the US were left behind. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees stepped in and asked Pastor Abraham Barberi (who just happened to be the person who had been coordinating our water project) to open his church in Matamoros to house those asylum seekers. Of course, he agreed and immediately turned his church into a shelter. The original asylum seekers were eventually processed and allowed to cross; yet tens of thousands of asylum seekers are still stranded in Matamoros. Pastor Abraham went from housing approximately 60 asylum seekers to housing more than 300 including many, many women and children. One of the most pressing needs was WATER. He took a crew from his church, and they salvaged some of our water tanks from the old camp and placed them at his church/shelter. We continue to support his work, not only by paying for the transportation of the water but by helping him with the furnishings and food that he needs for those in his care.

But, the story gets worse. When the camp was permanently closed in Matamoros, a new camp sprung up in Reynosa, only about 60 miles away. It is like starting all over. The people in the new camp need everything, including water. Several of the Methodist pastors from Matamoros who

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we have partnered with in the past, have reached out to us, begging for help to provide water in Reynosa.

We are not able to fund both of these projects...without your help.

As the temperatures continue to rise and the number of asylum seekers increases, they need water to survive. Currently approximately 1200 asylum seekers are in the camp in Reynosa.

And Reynosa has become incredibly dangerous. Eighteen people (taxi drivers, food workers, and students) were killed on June 19, 2021. The pastors and other volunteers who have worked with and for us are concerned for their safety.

Today we are asking for --

- Financial assistance to help provide water and other needs in Matamoros (\$1,100 monthly)
- Financial assistance to help provide water for the camp in Reynosa (\$1,500 monthly)
- Prayers for our partners in Matamoros and Reynosa
- Prayers for asylum seekers everywhere
- Prayers for our leaders to find a humanitarian response to this crisis

Checks may be made out and mailed to Westlake United Methodist Church, 1460 Redbud Trail, Austin, TX 78746.

Please feel free to contact Ann Finch, 512-422-7015, with your questions or concerns. Ann will be happy to speak at your church or with any group who has questions or needs more information.

I am deeply grateful for all that each of you and your churches do to serve Christ and look forward to providing, with you, the most essential of needs to a desperate community. I've no doubt it will be experienced as a sacrament by both those who are able to share it and those who receive it. This effort is currently being called the Methodist Water Project, and I've no doubt it will be by water and the Spirit that we shall serve together with our colleagues, and all will experience Christ.

Church Contacts

Find us online at cpfumc.org
or call the church Tues-Thurs between 9 and 2 at (512) 335-9540

Want to contact a Church Leader or submit something for a future Newsletter?

Pastor Peter Castles.
Assoc. Pastor/Youth Dir. Suzette Thorpe Johnson
Church Council Chair Carolyn Smith
Music Director/Pianist Jodi Blount
Newsletter Editor Jill Lundstrom

peter@cpfumc.org
suzette@cpfumc.org
carolynsmith2215@gmail.com
jodi_blount@hotmail.com
lund121@me.com

Be sure to put "Newsletter" in the subject for Connections submissions!



Cedar Park UMW have supported Acts of Love for several years. They have been closed through the pandemic but have continued to offer supplies to their teen moms. Our women have been very faithful in giving them Baby Wipes and Diaper Cream and other essentials, including about 50 boxes to help them pack up and move to their new location on the LISD Campus in "downtown" Leander ... They plan to open there when school starts in August.... Maddie is a young mom who spoke at one of our Advent brunches before pandemic. Below is the article about her and her son which is featured on the ACTS of Love website and in their newsletter in July.

Meet Maddie and Dylan...



Maddie had her son, Dylan, at the end of her Junior year of high school. Without the support of ACTS of Love, Maddie would have dropped out of high school after her son was born. Thankfully, ACTS of Love was able to provide childcare for Maddie's son, and she returned to high school. During her senior year of high school, Maddie served as the student body president for her school, was a member of five different student clubs, and was accepted to several state universities. She went on to Texas A&M University to study history, psychology, and secondary education. Maddie's journey has not been easy. She will be the first to tell you that life as a teen-mom is hard. Even though Maddie has faced challenges, she is full of life! She is a wonderful mom and she is determined to achieve her dreams. Maddie and her son, Dylan, will go on to change the world, and we are so honored to be a part of their story

Ways to help:

Give. Financial support to help with costs of moving into a new facility and continued regular ministry needs. [Click here to go to the ACTS of Love web page and donate.](#)

Pray. Join in praying for future staff members; that God will bring forth teachers who are passionate about this vision to give every teen parent the opportunity to complete their high school education.

ACT. Do you know someone who would be a great addition to ACTS of Love as a staff member, volunteer or a family needing childcare? Please pass this information along to them.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS ...We need your help to make our grand reopening a success. We are looking for volunteers to help us move to our new location and to help in the office and classrooms when our center reopens. [Click here to submit a Volunteer Application.](#)



REMEMBER WITH CARDS AND PRAYERS

Please remember to contact these folks and others during these weeks with cards, calls, notes of some kind. Those in care facilities are NOT currently able to have visitors so are needing a little extra TLC...

<p>Mona Cannell 1606 Carriage Hills Trl Cedar Park, 78613</p>	<p>Andy Carver 109 Estrella Crossing #101 Georgetown, TX 78628. 512 350 6705</p>	<p>Marilyn Hartman The Pointe 450 Discovery Blvd Cedar Park, TX 78613</p>
<p>Holly Laughlin 13213 Fawn Valley Dr. Cedar Park, Tx 78613</p>	<p>Cynthia Lawrence The Springs Rehab 1500 Cottonwood Creek Cedar Park, TX 78613 737.843. 7011(new!!)</p>	<p>Myrl McKellar The Pointe 450 Discovery Blvd Cedar Park, TX 78613 512.966.3063 myrlpointe@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Diann Russell 1503 N Woodstone Cedar Park, 78613 512.496.8794 dhjr99@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Lillian Smith The Pointe 450 Discovery Blvd Cedar Park, TX 78613</p>	<p>Marsha Venable 2112 West Riviera Drive Cedar Park, TX 78613 512.257.9698</p>
<p>Adalid Verastegui 700 Spring Brook Lane Leander, Tx 78641</p>		

CPFUMC Calendar August 2021

Click [here](#) to go to the most up to date online calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am - Children's SS 10am - In-Person 8pm - Youth @	2 7:30pm - Centering	3 10am - Bible Study 6pm - National Night 7:30pm - AA Men's	4 1pm - Piano - 4pm - Piano	5 9am - Piano -	6 6:30pm - Alcoholics	7
8 9am - Children's SS 10am - Blessing of 10am - In-Person 8pm - No YOUTH @	9 7:30pm - Centering	10 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	11 4pm - Piano	12 9am - Piano -	13 6:30pm - Alcoholics	14
15 9am - Children's SS 10am - In-Person 3:30pm - Worship @ 8pm - Youth @	16 6:30pm - Council 7:30pm - Centering	17 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	18 4pm - Piano	19 9am - Piano - 9:30am - Mbr Care	20 6:30pm - Alcoholics	21 10am - Sanctuary -
22 9am - Children's SS 10am - In-Person 8pm - Youth @	23 7:30pm - Centering	24 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	25 4pm - Piano	26 9am - Piano -	27 NEWSLETTER Input 6:30pm - Alcoholics	28
29 9am - Children's SS 10am - In-Person 8pm - Youth @	30 7:30pm - Centering	31 9:30am - Morning 10am - Bible Study 10am - HCCM 11am - Prayer Shawl 7:30pm - AA Men's	1 4pm - Piano	2 9am - Piano -	3 6:30pm - Alcoholics	4