



The Herald

A Publication of the First Church in Salem, Unitarian

The Ames Covenant
In the love of truth
and the spirit of Jesus,
we unite for the worship of God
and the service of humankind.

OCTOBER 2010

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 2

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Minister's Musings

Last January, a major earthquake struck Haiti, a country of nine million people. An estimated 250,000 thousand people were killed and approximately one million were left homeless. In the days and weeks that followed, our government and our citizens stepped up and raised hundreds of millions of dollars for Haiti Relief. It was the right thing to do when it came to helping some of our poorest neighbors in the Western Hemisphere.

Contrast this response to what has occurred in Pakistan in the last eight weeks. In late July, this country of 170 million people endured the worst flooding from monsoons in the country's history, perhaps in any country's history. Twenty percent of the country was flooded and left submerged. Tens of thousands of people lost their lives. At least nine million people were affected and at least six million of the poorest people in this country have been left homeless, with not so much as a tent for shelter in many cases. U.N. Secretary Ban-Ki-Moon said this was the worst disaster he had ever seen, and he had been in Haiti at the beginning of the year. In large swaths of the country, roads are gone, bridges are washed out, and all the requirements for civilization (like power plants, hospitals, schools, factories, etc.) have been inundated or damaged. This is by far one of the largest weather-related humanitarian disasters in modern history, one clearly made worse by a changing climate.

And here's the truly awful part about this: the story here in the U.S. has barely been covered. Instead, we have been treated to countless news cycles about Islamic Centers in New York, election year politics and a certain renegade (and ill-informed) pastor in Florida. A recent issue of *Time* magazine illustrates this beautifully – or sadly as it were. Around most of the world, the September 20 issue of *Time* featured a cover story about the floods in Pakistan with an article entitled “Through Hell and High Water.” However, here in the U.S., *Time* featured a cover story showing a school bus entitled “What Makes Schools Great.” The story about Pakistan barely made it into the issue, a story that has enormous geo-political and security implications for the United States.

Our country has a problem that is being fed by our commercial media about the growing impact of climate-related disasters. For-profit corporations are doing the American people a huge disservice by not focusing on the growing threat of climate change. That is why movements and projects like 350.org are so important. On October 10, 350.org will be hosting a worldwide community workday, inviting people to plant trees and weatherize buildings and talk to one another about the dire set of circumstances we potentially face if our country does not reduce our CO2 emissions. There are events happening here in Salem and around Boston and I hope all of us can find a way to participate. Some would say climate change is a non-issue. I disagree. Given the overwhelming scientific consensus, I fail to see how one can “love your neighbor as yourself” here in the 21st century without at least working to change our country's polluting ways.

See you in church,



October Schedule of Events

October 3

- ✦ World Communion Sunday Service, with choir, 10:30 am.
The Annual Blessing of the Animals, approx. 12:30 pm.
- ✦ Youth Group meets, 7–8:30 pm.

October 5

- ✦ Alliance luncheon, noon
- ✦ Spirit Journey at 7:30 pm

October 6

- ✦ RE Committee, 7 pm

October 10

- ✦ Sunday Service, 10:30 am. Localvore Fellowship to celebrate and honor 350.org's 10.10.10 events in Salem
- ✦ Youth Group meets, 7–8:30 pm

October 12

- ✦ Alliance luncheon, noon
- ✦ Standing Committee, 7:15 pm

October 13

- ✦ Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner. 4:45 pm

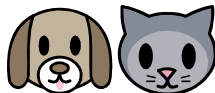
October 14

- ✦ Becoming a Welcoming Congregation Workshop, 7:30 pm



October 17

- ✦ Sunday Service with choir, 10:30 am
- ✦ Youth Group meets, 7–8:30 pm
- ✦ Program: "The Sacred Mother of Us All", an evening with author Megan Don. 7 pm



October 19

- ✦ Alliance lunch-and-learn series on Islam begins, noon

October 22

- ✦ Fall Family Fun Night: Halloween Party, 6:30 pm

October 24

- ✦ Sunday Service, 10:30 am
- ✦ Youth Group meets, 7–8:30 pm



October 21

- ✦ Alliance luncheon, noon

October 27

- ✦ MPIC, 6:30 pm

October 27

- ✦ Welcoming Congregations Committee, 7:30 pm

October 30

- ✦ Lifebridge (Salem Mission) Dinner, 4:45 pm

October 31

- ✦ All Hallow's Eve Service, with Jeff Barz-Snell and Rose Wolf co-leading. 10:30 am. Come and celebrate the magical and the fantastic with a service inspired by Middle Earth.

Looking Ahead —

November 7

- ✦ Annual All Souls Day Candlelighting Service to remember dearly departed loved ones, 10:30 am

November 14

- ✦ Pancake breakfast before the Service and New Member Orientation following the Service.



350.org's Global Work Party (as part of 10.10.10)

Sun, Oct 10, 10 am – 5 pm

Salem Common and assorted locations in Salem.

Join us to weatherize local homes, plant trees, and then celebrate a day of accomplishment! No experience needed; in fact, this could be a great learning opportunity! Try going low carbon for the day! Walk or bike instead of driving, use a reusable shopping bag and water bottle, take a shorter shower, etc.

After the work parties are finished, come celebrate with fellow volunteers, have a chance to win RAFFLE PRIZES from local merchants (like Cody Brewing Company, Coven cafe and bake shop, EMS, Beehive/Roost, and Cornerstone Books) and enjoy FREE APPETIZERS at the Green Land Café on Washington St.

For more information or to get involved contact Katie Giddings at kat_rg@yahoo.com

SPONSORED BY THE SALEM ALLIANCE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (SAFE) AND THE SALEM RENEWABLE ENERGY TASK FORCE.

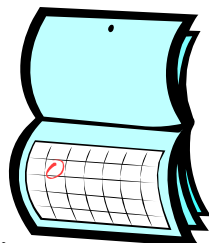
O C T O B E R 2 0 1 0						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>All Sunday Services begin at 10:30am</i>					1	2
3 - Sunday Service, with Choir - Blessing of the Animals - Youth Group, 7-8:30pm	4	5 - Alliance, noon - Spirit Journey, 7:30pm	6	7	8	9
10 - Sunday Service, Localvore - Fellowship Hour follows - 10.10.10 events in Salem, 10am-5pm - Youth Group, 7-8:30pm	11	12 - Alliance, noon	13 - Salem Mission dinner, 4:45pm	14 - Becoming a Welcoming Congregation Wksp, 7:30pm	15	16
17 - Sunday Service, with Choir - Youth Group, 7-8:30pm - The Sacred Mother of Us All, 7pm	18	19 - Alliance, Islam Study series, noon	20 - Standing Cmte, 7:15pm	21	22 - Fall Family Fun Night, 6:30pm	23
24 - Sunday Service - Youth Group, 7-8:30pm	25	26 - Alliance, noon	27 - MPIC, 6:30pm	28 - Welcoming Congregation Cmte., 7:30pm	29	30 - Salem Mission dinner, 4:45pm;
31 - All Hallow's Eve Sunday Service						

Standing Committee Meeting Date Change

Please note that the October meeting of the Standing Committee has been moved back a week from its normal day. The Committee will meet

Wednesday, October 20, at 7:15 pm.

While the date change applies only to October, 7:15 will be the start time for all Standing Committee meetings hereafter, unless otherwise notified.



Flowers

Sign up to provide flowers for our services in September and beyond. Special wording can be placed in our weekly Order of Service in honor or memory or a loved one, or to commemorate an important event. You can use the church florist for a cost of \$45, or bring your own creation. Arrangements can be simple or elaborate — the choice is yours! See the sign up sheet in The Barnard Room on Sundays during Fellowship, or contact the church office if you have questions: 978-744-1551 / firstchurch@ni.net.



From Religious Education

OCTOBER is an exciting month for children, especially for children who live here in Salem. And October at the First Church promises to be as exciting and busy as ever. We have our tradition for World Communion Sunday, October 3, when our children bake cornbread together in the downstairs kitchen. The very next Sunday, October 10, our second through fifth grade students will be joining the children from our sister church here in Salem, The First Universalist Society, to make banners and plant trees on Salem Common to recognize 350.org's 10.10.10, a worldwide climate-change awareness day.

Of course, October at the First Church also means our beloved Halloween Family Fun Night. Bob Soucy and the RE Committee are planning even more fun, games and community celebrating for this year, including a great new surprise! The fun begins at 6:30 pm on October 22. Young and old are welcome. Halloween, October 31, falls on a Sunday this year, which is just perfect for our annual Halloween party and parade during the service. Please plan to have children dressed in their costumes and ready to show-off! The entire congregation enjoys seeing the fun, scary and—I hate to say it, but—super cute costumes on the children. Then we will be off to our First Church Halloween party in Willson Hall.

While all these events are fun, our children are busy beginning this year's *Tapestry of Faith* classroom experiences. In addition to our dedicated teachers from last year, we are lucky enough to have Denise Granniss leading our Middle School class this year. Please watch for the "Taking it Home" notes your child will be bringing to you about what they are learning in RE. (See the side box for links to your child's curriculum). To help organize our talented parent and friend volunteers who support this busy schedule of class time and special events, we have Donna Fritz as volunteer coordinator. Please be sure to speak to Donna about your opportunity to be part of our exciting Religious Education program.

October is full of fun and full of opportunities for building intergenerational connections. Hope to see you at one of our events or in the classroom.

Peace,

Deb DiGiulio, Religious Education Director

RE October

Sun, Oct 3 — World Communion Sunday, bread baking in the downstairs kitchen

Sun, Oct 10 — 350.org's 10.10.10 joint project on Salem Common with FUSS, Explorers and Navigators classes

Fri, Oct 22 — Fall Family Fun Night, 6:30 pm

Sun, Oct 31 — Halloween party and parade during the service.

From the Youth Advisor

Youth, parents and members of the First Church in Salem,

Hi. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to you and invite you to be a part of youth ministry at the church, either as a participant, an advisor or a supporter. My name is Christian Schmidt and the church has hired me this year to take the youth group to a new level. We have had our first two meetings and will continue to meet 7–8:30 every Sunday night (with a few exceptions like Halloween and the Sunday after Christmas).

For those who don't know, youth group is a chance for high-school age teens to come together for fun, fellowship, service and learning. We will be doing a variety of activities this year, and the youth will have considerable input about that. We will also need loving support from parents and friends to get youth to meetings and other activities and to help with certain activities.

About me: I moved from Texas to the Boston area three weeks ago after getting married to Kristin Grassel Schmidt, who is serving as Assistant Minister at King's Chapel in Boston. I am in seminary at Andover Newton Theological School and hope to be a UU minister in a couple years. I can be reached at 979-450-2477 or the.christian.schmidt@gmail.com, and I look forward to working with the First Church this year.

Christian

From the Music Director



Two Sundays into the new church year and I can report that we are full speed ahead and back into the productive mode of church activity. From the musicians' perspective, Homecoming Sunday was very well received by all and I have to say that I was quite proud of the First Church Choir as they sang beautifully after a two month hiatus. So now we are essentially in routine mode and I look forward to October when the choir will participate in the service on the first and third Sundays as is our typical schedule. In addition, Russell Lane, our resident jazz specialist, Jeff and I are busy planning a jazz service sometime in October as well. There will be more to report on that soon. Then, of course, we must start thinking Halloween. It's hard to believe that, here in Salem, it does seem as though Halloween figures among the big services (never to replace Christmas and Easter, hopefully) but our resident Halloween and all things occult guru Rose Wolf reminds me that we must be ready, and ready we'll be. After all, we have to be part of the Salem scene. I think we all agree, however, that our planning must be for a beautiful church service in the finest UU tradition.

That's about all I have to report this month folks, except that I'm sure we're all glad to be back. And so,

See you in church,

Paul Madore
Director of Music

Becoming a Welcoming Congregation Workshop

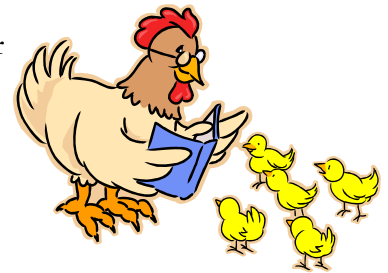


Our series of workshops continues on Thursday, October 14 at 7:30 pm. The topic this month is *The Origins and Development of Sexuality*. This series continues on the second Thursday of each month through April 2011. Please join us for as many sessions as you can.

From Henny Penny

Greetings All,

We can't believe we're heading into our third week of school! Barbara and I are so proud of the children (and parents!) for their surprisingly quick adjustment to our morning program. This month, we enjoyed a visit from Miss Joan, our gymnastics instructor, who worked with us as we hopped on one foot, somersaulted, balanced our bodies, and made headstands against the wall. We also read illustrated and written movement instruction cards to the tune of JoJo's Circus. Would you believe that we marched, twisted, tippy-toed and spun our bodies to music all while listening *and* following directions!



The Henny Penny Open House is been rescheduled from September 23 to Thursday, September 30, 7-8 pm. This is an opportunity for families to hear about our program in detail (philosophy, curriculum, opportunities to volunteer, etc) and ask questions. Typically, we'll have a baking project the day before—to prepare for our moms and dads and coffee is served. It's also a nice time to meet other parents.

Kathy Wood and Catherine Miller will be hosting our first Parent Tea on Thursday, October 7, from 8:30-9:30 am. Children who do not ordinarily attend on Thursday are invited to join us upstairs during the tea. This is a wonderful opportunity to relax, meet other parents whose children attend Henny Penny and enjoy some coffee, tea and snacks.

Halloween is just around the corner. Time to start planning our costumes! What will you be? Enjoy the upcoming fall with your family, friends and loved ones.

Kerry Martin
Director of Henny Penny Nursery School

Around the Parish



The First Church is pleased to report that it won third place for funds raised for this year's HAWC Walk. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated to help HAWC and to **Ben Waxman**, who coordinated our activities for the "UU Wanna Walk" team.

Tommy Leon and Don Glover just returned from a whirlwind tour of Italy, France and Spain. They liked Rome except when Don had his cell phone pick-pocketed!

Christian Schmidt, our new Youth Group Advisor, is off to a great start with eight kids showing up for his second week. Rumor has it that the night was "cool."

Max Burbank is taking graduate courses at Salem State right now, avidly pursuing his teacher's certification.

Alison Palmer is off to college this fall in Washington, DC and is absolutely loving it, according to her parents.

Erica Hedstrom began her sophomore year this fall at Emmanuel College in Boston, after transferring from New Hampshire. It's been great to see her this summer and fall.

Paula Grasberger is off to college as well, matriculating at Tufts University.

In Memoriam: Myrtle Donahue

Long time church member Myrtle S. (Howell) Donohue died on August 21, 2010 at the Norwell Knoll Nursing Center. She was 101. Mrs. Donohue was born in Beverly, MA in 1908, daughter of the late Herbert and Lillian (Andrews) Howell. She graduated from Salem High School in 1926 and was a long time resident of the Salem and Danvers area. She was the wife of the late Erwin E. Sanford and Edward C. Donohue.

During World War II, Myrtle was employed at the Lynn G.E. Defense Plant, Air craft Engines Division. She was always proud of her participation, along with all of the other women of her generation who joined the war effort learning new skills so that they could fill the many important jobs vacated by the men who were called to military service.

Myrtle was also a member of the Civilian Defense Corps and taught first aid at the Salem Red Cross Center. She was an avid music lover and sang with the Handel and Hayden Society in Boston for many years. Mrs. Donohue was a Life Member of the Auxiliary of North Shore Children's Hospital. She enjoyed knitting for the children and was lovingly know as the "Mitten Angel."

She was a member of the First Church in Salem and First Parish in Norwell over many years. One of her great joys in life was her association with the Star Island Conference Center in the Isle of Shoals off the coast of New Hampshire. Along with her husband Ed, they spent over 40 summers helping with improvements and beautification of their beloved "Star." Mrs. Donohue was a member Emeritus of the Star Island Corporation.

She is survived by her daughter, Pearl Farley-Jayko of Norwell, two grandchildren, Ellen Boley of Marshfield and John Farley and his wife Martha of Chapel Hill, NC, three great grandchildren, Melinda Boley of Plymouth, Andrew and Zachary Farley of NC, a nephew Larry Blanchard and two nieces Gail Blanchard and Pamela St. Pierre all of Salem. She was also the sister of the late Gladys Herlihy and Herbert J. Howell, Jr.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, September 11, 2010 at the First Parish Church in Norwell. A graveside committal service will occur on Saturday, Oct 16 at 11:00 AM at the Greenlawn Cemetery in Salem. Jeff Barz-Snell will officiate.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

Saturday, Oct 2, 8 am – 12 noon.
Salem High School, 77 Willson Street

\$20 per car. TV's and computers monitors, \$10 each.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY of Salem or Beverly REQUIRED

Go to the City of Salem's website to see full list of what to bring.

Remember also the Techno-Trash Collection bin in the Barnard Room for CDs, DVDs, cell phones and more.

YOURS for the MASKING: Dame Ragnall and the Hidden Face at Samhain

“If only one could strike—strike through the mask!”

– Captain Ahab in *Moby-Dick*

“The truest masks,” wrote G.K. Chesterton, “are those that reveal more than they conceal.” Certainly, the season of Halloween—Samhain (SAH-wen) to the ancient Celts and modern Pagans—offers the best chance of the year to try out that truth, or, rather, to try it on. For on that one truly enchanted evening, we may all transform ourselves into the thing we best love, or most fear. But must we resume our false faces the following day?

Ask Dame Ragnall, the powerful Faerie who could appear by turns as either a hideous crone or a beauteous maiden. According to the Arthurian Legends, Sir Gawain, one of the king’s finest knights, commits an act of violence against a woman. As punishment, he is sent on a quest by Guinevere, on pain of losing his head; but, though he strives mightily, he is unable to fulfill the queen’s requirement. On the way back to Camelot, Gawain meets Dame Ragnall in her guise as a repulsive old woman, and she agrees to help him—for a price. Desperate to save his life, the “errant” knight agrees, only to learn that what she demands is to be his wife! However, because Sir Gawain has learned his lesson about re-

specting women, he takes the monstrous matriarch back to the court and marries her without a murmur. Later, as the couple gets into bed, the less-than-eager lord closes his eyes to reach for his loathly lady, only to be commanded, “Lift up the coverlet; look how things are!” The Faerie, as a reward for her new husband’s chivalry, has reverted to the shape of a lovely young girl. (Small wonder he was told to look “under-where;” she was now in her Maiden Form!)

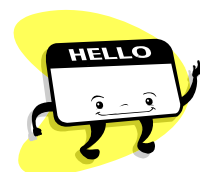


The task is over, the mask is off; the beastly has become the beautiful—or has it? Just as with Nanny McPhee (whose name, intriguingly, means “daughter of the Faeries”), the magickal child-care giver who seems to lose a wart or wrinkle each time her charges learn a life lesson, so Dame Ragnall may not actually alter, except in the eyes of those who love her.

Whether celebrated as Halloween or Samhain, this season is a time for ending what is inauthentic in our lives—perhaps a social semblance. The tale of Dame Ragnall, the transforming Faerie who can teach us to honor our innermost selves, should be taken at literal “face” value—and very much to heart. Happy New Year to the beautiful (and the BOOtiful) in us all!

Rose Wolf

REMINDER: Nametags are a great way for First Church members and friends to become better acquainted during Fellowship Hour. If you do not have a pre-printed nametag (or can’t find yours) then we invite you to sign the request sheet located in the hall outside the Cleveland Room. You can also use one of adhesive nametags provided.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Lifebridge (The Salem Mission)

Thanks to the following who signed up to volunteer to shop or to serve July–September, several of whom served on multiple dates:

Lynn Clarke, Duncan Cox, Rick Decienso, Joe Deegan, Alicia Diozzi, Catheryne Draper, Chris Finn, Mike and Robin Giannopolo, Denise Graniss, Bill Grover, Richard Hannah, Alan Hanscom, Heather LeBlanc, Michelle Lucia, Mike Mascolo, Dave Mitchell, Betty Nichols, Jim Ognibene, Steve Palmer, Tony Pira, Sandy Riggs, Steve Sawtell, Bryant Winberry

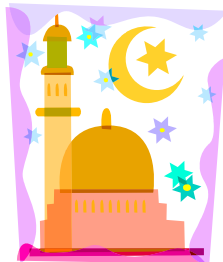
Our apologies to anyone whose name was omitted from this list.

Volunteers are needed on a monthly basis at Lifebridge (the Salem Mission). Members and friends of the First Church serve dinner twice a month—on the second Wednesday and on the fourth Saturday, 4:45–6:45 pm. You can help out by shopping, or serving dinner that night, or both—the choice is yours! Contact the church office at 978-744-1551/firstchurch@nii.net to volunteer, or see the sign up sheet in the Barnard Room during Fellowship hour.

News from The Alliance

The Alliance continues its lunch-and-learn series on Tuesday, October 19 with the first of several sessions on Islam. To begin, we will be listening to—and discussing as time permits—a podcast of “Inside American Islam,” originally broadcast September 14 on WBUR’s “On Point.”

Pastor Jeff Barz-Snell will lead the discussion. Bring your own lunch; beverages are provided.



Chalice Lighters and Readers

Thanks to those who served as Chalice Lighters and Readers during services in August/September:

- August 1: Jeff Barz-Snell
- August 8: Jeff Barz-Snell
- August 29: Jeff Barz-Snell
- August 15: Tommy Leon
- August 22: Jeff Barz-Snell
- September 12: Nicole McLaughlin
- September 19: Max Burbank
- September 26: Seth Mascolo



Fellowship

Thanks go to Fellowship Committee members Chris Hansen-Mitev, Joan Hannah, Mary Krigbaum, Alicia Diozzi, and Don Glover for taking care of Fellowship Hour for the Sundays in August and thanks also to the following for hosting Fellowship in September:

- Sep 12: Joan Hannah and Jennifer Barz-Snell
- Sep 19: Rose Wolf and Mary Krigbaum
- Sep 26: The Donovan and Keenan-McLaughlin families

Operation Troop Support recently received word from a recently opening combat aid station at Camp Dwyer in Afghanistan with a list of items for the newly arrived wounded, including pillow cases, cotton blankets, plain white t-shirts (medium or large), athletic socks, shorts, towels, skivvies, shower shoes, personal hygiene items, and haircut kits. In addition, the facility is in need of a large American flag, an Rockband/Xbox, coffee, checkers and chess sets, cards, CDs, DVDs, 20-50 ft extension cords (12), surge protectors (12), and small area rugs or carpet scraps, among other items. If you can help, or would like the full list, contact Charlene Long (978-744-6540; CDLong@TheBuffumGroup.com).

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316 Essex Street
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Phone and Fax: 978-744-1551
Email: firstchurch@nii.net
www.firstchurchinsalem.org

Minister: Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell
Director of Music: L. Paul Madore
Director of Henny Penny: Kerry Martin
Director of Religious Education: Deb DiGiulio
Chair of the Standing Committee: Nicole McLaughlin
Archivist: Kristin Kobialka
Administrator: Jim Singletary
Sexton: Joe Perron

ONE OF THE OLDEST PROTESTANT CHURCHES
GATHERED IN NORTH AMERICA, SINCE 1629

The Council for Spiritual Connection and the First Church in Salem, Unitarian present:

The Sacred Mother of Us All

*An evening talk followed by sacred circle dances and chant
with award-winning author Megan Don*

Sunday, October 17, 7:00 pm
The First Church in Salem, Unitarian

The Mother comes in many forms and has many names, yet we are all Her children, who ever we are and where ever we are, physically and spiritually. Through meditation, sacred text, and reflection, Megan Don will draw us into the loving arms of The Mother, where all wisdom, with its perplexing paradoxes, and true spiritual rest, reside.

Megan Don is the author of *Falling Into the Arms of God: Meditations with Teresa of Avila*, and *Sacred Companions, Sacred Community: Reflections with Clare of Assisi*. She has studied Comparative Religion, Jungian Psychology, and the Christian Mystical Tradition. A sought-after speaker and retreat leader who has presented at Omega, NY; Kripalu, MA; and Esalen, CA, Megan also works as a spiritual director and counselor, and leads pilgrimages and sacred journeys to Europe. A native New Zealander, she devotes herself to awakening the mystic within humanity, teaching an embodied spirituality that honors all traditions. For more information about her work and practice go to www.mysticpeace.com.

