

# CONTACT

To worship God, grow as Jesus' disciples,  
care for one another, and take God's love to the world.

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Kids enjoying Parachute Games at Summer Adventure Camp

The book of Genesis is about beginnings. God beginning the world. God beginning a great family of faith that includes us as Christians today. And behind Genesis is this proclamation: "There is a God; God exists. In fact, life without God is difficult to explain."

The journey in Genesis is one we are on as people and as a congregation. How are we to 'be' if such claims about God are true? How does this impact us? It means that the God who called the world into being is the same God, in Jesus, who calls the church into being.

The journey in Genesis is one we are on as a congregation. We are part of the church. Called, drawn into a community centred on worshipping our Creator. And it just might be true that our lives, that our souls will not thrive, be fully alive - will shrink without - being united or reunited with Christ. The first Christians thought of it this way, "he has made known to us the mystery of his will...to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

With best wishes for the months ahead,

The Rev. Dr. Greg Davidson, Minister



The Rev. Dr. Greg Davidson

## Around and About with our Youth



Craft station at Summer  
Adventure Camp



Super Hero Academy Skit



Teen volunteers at Summer  
Adventure Camp enjoying  
some well-earned donuts

## *From the Interim Director of Discipleship Ministries - Eric O'Neil*

Spring 2017 was very busy at Central in the realm of youth and children's ministry with four Friday evening special events, Youth and Children's Sunday on June 25<sup>th</sup> in addition to regular weekly programs. Here are some of the highlights:

### **Summer Adventure Camp**

This summer's theme was superheroes, so kids made capes and masks and we followed the adventures of three young teens who had just started their first year at *Superhero Academy*. We looked at a different bible hero each day: David, Daniel, Esther, Mary, and Jesus and discussed the challenges they each had to face. With singing, drama, stories, games, snacks, crafts and special adventures every day, the week was a ton of fun!

*\*A special and huge thank you to Ryleigh Altenburg, Carina Ziemann, Maya Ziemann and Brigitte Ziemann for being in the skit each day and leading at camp all week, including staying an extra couple of hours one day to fill several hundred water balloons.*

### **Tuesday Youth Nights**

Every Tuesday evening, Central's teens gather for an evening of games, fellowship, scripture study and discussion. Central is blessed with a group of very insightful and genuine young believers that I feel very privileged to lead. In the spring, we started working our way through the book of Acts together and the plan is to continue with that starting Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Faith Finders**

This summer our Faith Finders program focused on the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5. Attendance was very up and down with all the activities of summer but we are excited to be joining the entire congregation in looking at the book of Genesis this fall. An exciting addition this fall will be the development of a bi-weekly teen Faith Finders class which starts on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Baptisms



Olivia Williams  
Daughter of Ashley & Jeremy  
Williams  
July 2, 2017



Joshua Williams  
Son of Barrington & Sabah  
(Pervez) Williams  
August 6, 2017

## Deaths

Helen Bain – May 17  
Mabel Lummack – May 23  
Donald Gregory – July 10  
Helen Moote – July 13  
Wanita Smyth – August 13  
Doris Middleton – August 18  
Sydney Hamber – September 12

## Friday Night Events

This past spring we experimented with a few different Friday evening events, some more youth focused and others more family focused. In addition to enjoying the fun of Escape Rooms and Amazing Race events, we also took a closer look at some major events surrounding Easter: Jesus' arrest and trial, his resurrection and encouragement to his followers and the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

This fall we will run three Friday evening events, all designed for families and youth - September 29th, November 2nd, December 1st.

## CPC Book Club News

*"I cannot remember the books I've read any more than the meals I have eaten; even so, they have made me."* -Ralph Waldo Emerson

### September 24, 2017 - The Stone Angel

The Stone Angel, is perhaps the best-known of Margaret Laurence's series of novels set in the fictitious town of Manawaka, Manitoba.

The plan is to gather at 3:00 p.m. in the church hall on September 24 to view the National Film Board movie based on this novel, followed by a pot-luck supper and concluding with our regular book/movie discussion at 7:00 p.m. in the Allan Room.

Date	Title & Author	Facilitator
December 3, 2017	<i>How to Read Like a Professor</i> Thomas C. Foster	Gwynneth Simpson
January 28, 2018	To Be Announced	Colleen & Larry Kurtz
March 25, 2018	<i>The Bees</i> Laline Paull	Beth MacKay Reilly
May 27, 2018	<i>Playing with Fire</i> Tess Gerritsen	Shannon Smith

Everyone is welcome to join this congenial group of readers in the Allan Room from 7 to 9 p.m. Refreshments are served.



## *A Note from the Worship Committee*

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to  
**Kirk Starkey**  
who was a winner at the  
Hamilton Arts Awards in the  
Music Category.

Congratulations to  
**Mary Lou Collett**  
who was a nominee for  
Hamilton Senior of the Year  
and was awarded the  
Healthy and Active Living  
Award.

Congratulations to  
**Jana Prikryl**  
(daughter of John & Marcela)  
whose first book of poetry  
has received wonderful  
reviews.

Over the past year, approximately 100 people from the congregation have agreed to serve as greeters at the door on Sunday mornings. Yours are the first faces our members, visitors and newcomers to Central see as they enter the church. Your task is to help people feel welcome, whether they are seasoned regulars or first time attendees who are curious to know what we are all about. A warm smile and hearty handshake are always welcome and help to present the face of our friendly congregation. An added bonus is that the greeters get to know and converse with folks who they haven't known before. Thank you all so very much for cheerfully agreeing to play this important role in the life of our congregation.

### **Session update - September 2017**

Session would like to thank the congregation for your response to the June "boost" to the budget. We surpassed our goal of \$27,000. Your contributions to that special request, as well as your regular weekly offerings, help us continue to provide and grow our ministry at Central.

With regret, at the September meeting of Session, Session approved the request for retirement from active eldership of elder Bill Lyall. Bill has been a faithful elder and member of Session for 35 years. Bill has served in many capacities over the years, always with integrity and wise counsel. His presence will be missed at Session and we want to thank him for all of his dedication to the life and work of Central Church.

As one of the 2020 directions of looking for more hands-on mission opportunities in our neighbourhood, Session has approved the exploration of establishing a "Raw Carrot" site at Central. You will hear more about this as things progress.

Session has committed to studying the documents referred from General Assembly (2017) related to the Sexuality Overtures, "The Historic Argument Concerning Human Sexuality" and "What the Bible teaches on Covenanted Monogamous Same-sex Relationships". The Committee on

## Save the Date

### **Sunday October 1**

Communion Sunday

### **Sunday October 15**

Anointing with Oil  
for Healing  
12:15 p.m.

### **Sunday October 22**

Mission Sunday  
Welcome to Central Course

### **Sunday November 5**

Memoriam Sunday

### **Friday November 10**

Requiem Gabriel Fauré  
8:00 p.m.  
Free will offering

Church Doctrine of the General Assembly will be requesting a response on these documents by January 31, 2018.

## **God Answers Prayers!**

The Prayer Team is composed of several people who pray regularly, in their own homes, for the list of people who have requested prayer. We have experienced some wonderful answers to prayer in recent months and give praise to God for His faithfulness. If you are interested in being a part of this important ministry speak to Donna Thomas, 905-664-8107.

## **Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Committee Update**

Meet the Almahamids!

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, our long awaited Syrian family arrived at Toronto airport. Coming from Jordan, where they had lived for three years were Bader (father), Hala (mother), daughters Ebana, age 10, Lana age 6, and 4-year-old son, Mohammed. Katie and Josh Weresch met them at the airport, along with a volunteer interpreter and a cousin, who lives here in Hamilton.

There was not much notice of the pending arrival of the family, so quickly finding appropriate accommodation was a priority. After a stay of only two days at the Visitors Inn, the Almahamids were moved into an apartment on Balmoral Ave. N., that was set-up and furnished for their comfort by a great group of volunteers.

It has been a busy time for this family as they adjust to life in Canada. It has also been a busy time for those assisting with the family - there have been multiple appointments and meetings that have been accomplished. Some of these are:

- Several medical appointments for all five family members
- Several banking appointments
- Language assessments
- Meetings with settlement workers

- Registering the children for school
- Meetings with Citizenship and Immigration
- Appointments to get a SIN number/health card/other identification
- Getting them acquainted with the neighbourhood: grocery store, Walmart, Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club, mosque etc.
- Setting up phone and internet, etc.

In Syria, Badar was part of a family business making pickles (everything from traditional cucumber to pickled peppers and turnip) that was very successful. His brothers still run the business in Syria. Badar is interested in starting a similar business here in Canada. Hala has been a stay at home mom. She has four sisters who are now across the globe in Germany, Syria and Canada.

They are a loving family and it has been a joy getting to know them. They have faced their share of challenges and are still adjusting to life in Canada, but they are very happy to be starting a new life here in Hamilton.

Many, many thanks for the generosity of everyone who has supported the family so far. As a result of the kindness shown, much has been accomplished to ease the transition for this family into the Canadian way of life. There are still many ways to help. As the family continues to settle in, the most pressing need is the gift of time. There are still many appointments that various family members need to be taken to and there are many opportunities for companionship. On a very practical note, there is a need for someone who could orient them to the bus system. If you would be able to help, please contact Katie Weresh or Emma Reilly McKay.

## **The Cornerstone Project**

The Cornerstone project continues with three projects going into the fall:

1. The Durand Urban Farm Market will continue to October 25<sup>th</sup>, with local farmers and vendors providing fresh produce, preserves and baked goods to the neighbourhood. There has been a strong response from the community, with many now making the market a part of their weekly shopping routine. Neighbours meet and chat, come into the church for a quiet moment and enjoy the sense of community created in the Central gardens.
2. This year's reading program at Central finished last week with a little reception for all volunteers, when we were entertained by a grade 5 choir and served a drink and snacks by some charming and attentive students. Central Church volunteers Gerry & Janet Hutton and Jim Dunlop were present. The program for the 2017-18 school year will start soon after Labour Day. Jim Dunlop will once again head up the reading program at Central school. If you would like to be part of this vital ministry, please let Jim know; scheduling is very flexible and you would be welcome to help out even for an hour a week. We will have other opportunities to help out at the school such as partnering for pizza lunches, and the committee will keep the congregation updated as these become available.
3. We are pleased to be exploring the possibility of a new ministry for Central. The Raw Carrot is a social enterprise begun at Paris Presbyterian Church, providing employment for people in the

community on social assistance. The congregation of Central has already been supporting the Raw Carrot by purchasing soup every Sunday in the church hall, and by providing a stand at the Durand Market. A committee has now been formed to put together a business proposal for the purpose of creating our own Raw Carrot ministry, using Central's kitchen and employing people from the neighbourhood. The committee will be presenting their findings to session in October. We look forward to being a part of this exciting ministry.



## **Grief Share**

Grief Share will begin on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the Allan room. This is a support group for those who have experienced loss in their life and wish to gain insights in helping to cope with grief, and desiring to work your way to healing and recovery. Each session consists of viewing a video and a short discussion which will last approximately 1½ hours. This is a place where you can come as you are and be yourself in your stage of grief. No one will judge you or force you to “move on”. It is a comfortable, safe place where you can be yourself, as each person's journey through grief is different. No one is forced to speak and participate in the discussions. You can just sit and listen and gain insights in how others are handling their grief and the lessons they have learned. Grief Share is for those who have experienced recent loss, or in some cases experienced loss years ago, but just feel you have never really fully recovered. Please join us for this 12-week session. For more information or to have your questions answered, contact Rev. Franklin or Donna Thomas, 905-664-8107. The only cost is \$10 for the work-book.

## **Update from the Fellowship Committee**

Our annual church picnic was held on Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>. Rueben and Eliza Charles were our very generous hosts for the day at their large property in Flamborough. Notices and maps were put up early; rides needed and rides provided were listed, food was organized and cooks assigned. The barbeque team was out early to set up the large barbeques that Rueben and Eliza provided and to cook many, many pieces of chicken as well as hamburgers and hot dogs. The kitchen crew arrived early to cut up vegetables and watermelon, carve three deep fried turkeys, set out condiments, water and drinks, put out tablecloths. Salads and desserts were provided by the Charles family and friends. The grounds crew, Joel Charles and friends, put up gazebos and set out chairs all over the yard as it was a very warm sunny day. Volunteers helped organize the parking as the congregation arrived after services. And many came. Our estimate is 100 people attended and a good time was had by all. The food was all eaten and no one went hungry – there were games organized by the youth for the younger children. We all visited in a lovely country setting and went home full and relaxed. Then the cleanup crew sprang into action and all was returned to normal by 5:00 p.m. Many thanks go to Eliza and Rueben, our gracious hosts. They provided a blessed day for Central Presbyterian Church. Many thanks to the Fellowship Committee and the other volunteers who helped make the day successful. You are all a blessing to Central.

## Around and About



Refugee team moves furnishings on move in day  
July 15, 2017



Future choristers having a great time at the choir end of year get together!



Family Night



Enjoying lunch at the picnic!

Our Fellowship Luncheons will begin on Wednesday October 11 after the Wednesday Communion Service. The service is from 12:10 to 12:30 p.m. and a soup and sandwich lunch follows in the Guild Room. All are welcome to this fellowship event. We are also able to provide transportation to anyone who requires it. We encourage anyone who would like to attend the service and have social time after to come. Please encourage those whom we may not see often to attend as they are able. If you require transportation, please contact Mary Guise at 905-389-7573 or [guisem@mcmaster.ca](mailto:guisem@mcmaster.ca)

Please notice our refreshed committee bulletin boards in the hall by the kitchen and in the gym. Each committee has a board which is labelled. The members of the committee are listed on their respective boards. A "Family of Central" board has been created in the gym. This is an up-to-date directory of the members of Central with their pictures. We will be taking pictures weekly in the Guild Room with an instant camera, putting names on them and posting them on the new board. That way we will have a current photo directory. Please join us to have your picture taken for the board. It takes only a few minutes.

### Mark the Date

A dinner for new members of Central and their elders is being held Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup>. This is for those who joined the church in the spring and who will be joining on December 4<sup>th</sup>. We would like to welcome you and get to know you better. Please let Margaret in the office know if you are able to attend.





## Parking Pilot Project – Shuttle Service

To help with parking around the church, we are offering a shuttle service between the City Hall parking lot and the Church. It will run from the west end of the City Hall parking lot off Bay St.

From the City Hall parking lot to the Church

9:50 a.m.                      10:05 a.m.                      10:20 a.m.

From the Church to the City Hall parking lot

11:50 a.m.                      12:05 p.m.                      12:20 p.m.



### Financial Vital Signs

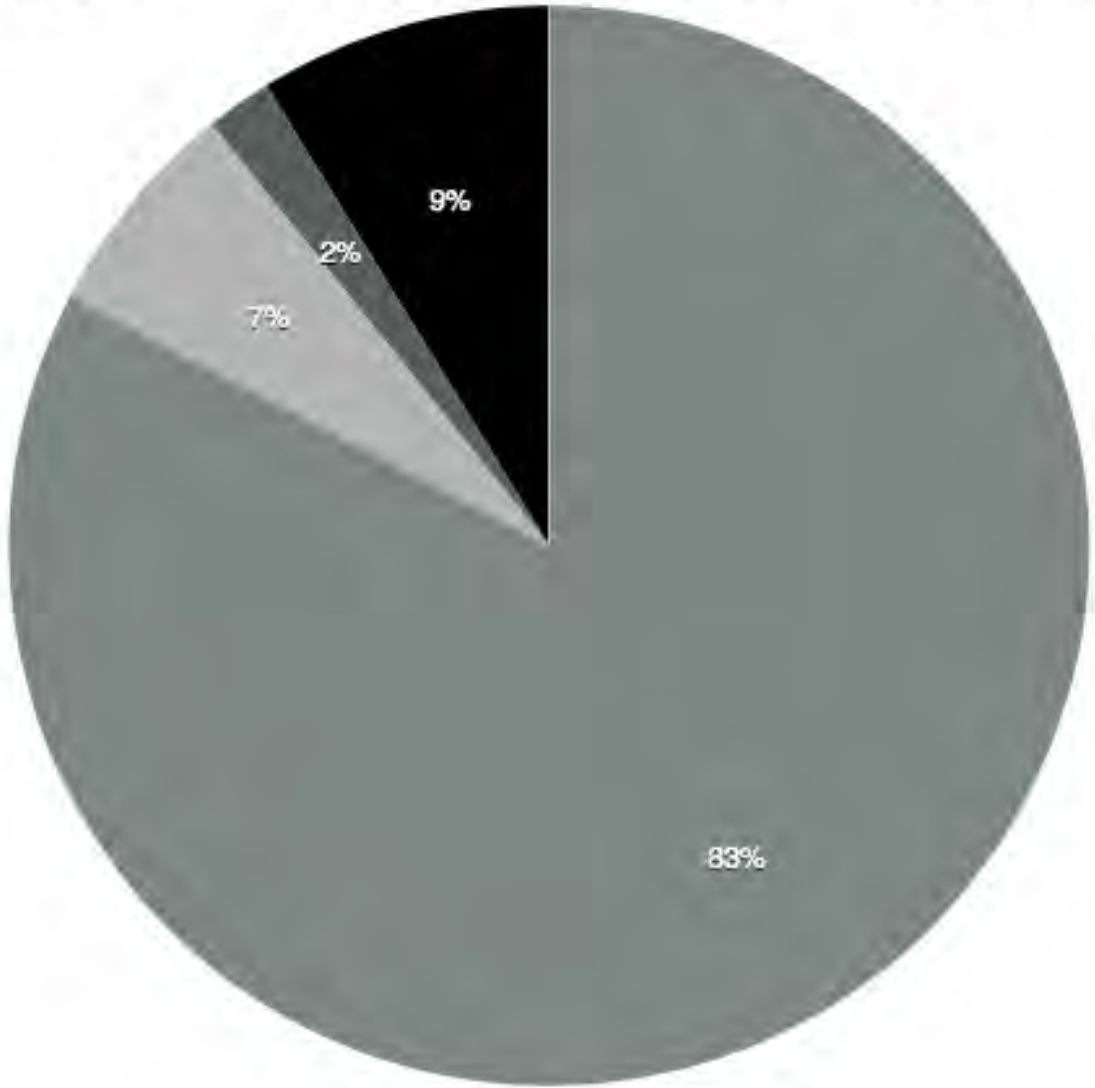
As at August 31, 2017

	31-Aug-17	YTD 2017
Income	\$37,392	\$294,532
Expenses	\$35,819	\$297,941
<b>Surplus / (Shortfall)</b>	\$1,573	(\$3,409)

Thank you for your generosity!

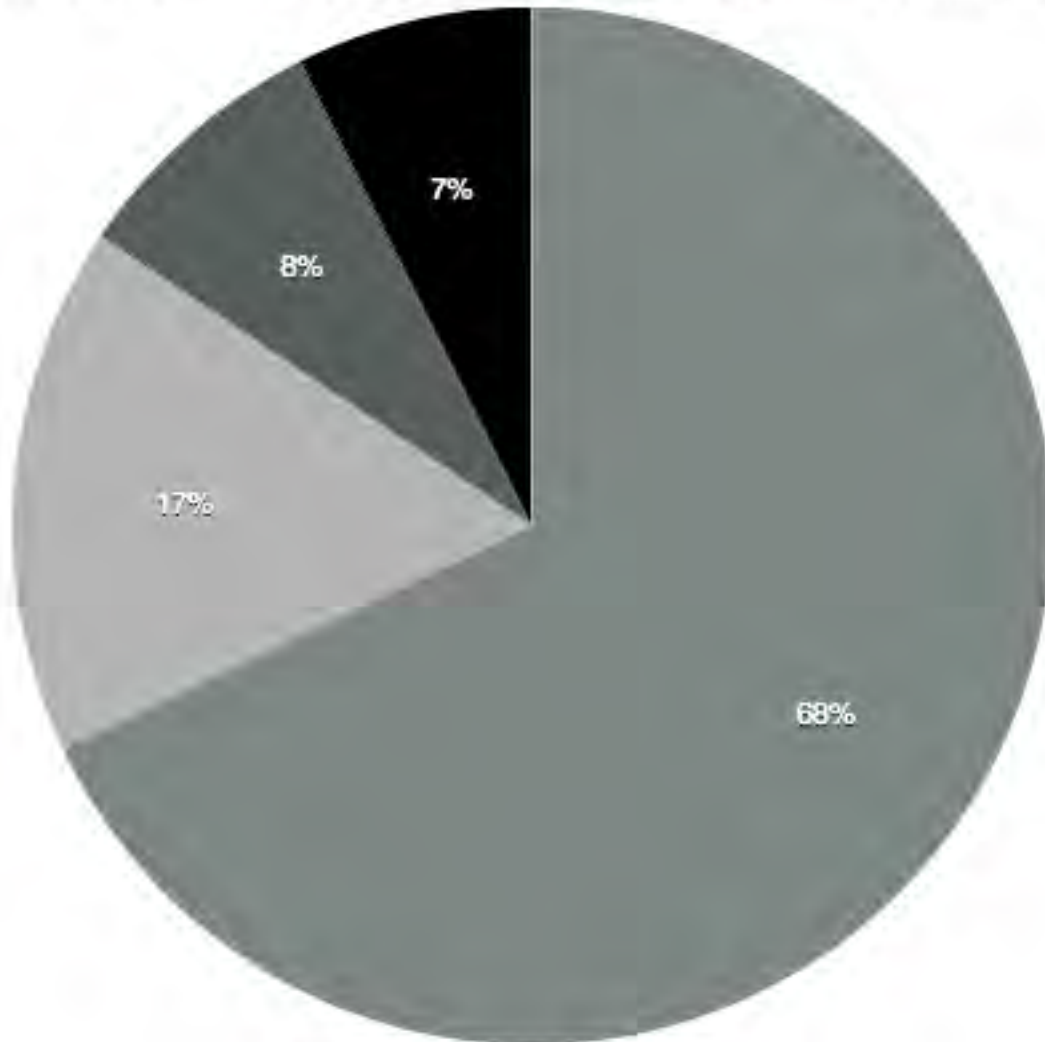


● Givings (83%)    ■ Rentals (7%)    ● Solar Panels (2%)    ● Trust Funds (9%)



**CPC Sources of Income 2017**  
**\$467,905**

● Staff (68%)   ● Building (17%)   ● Programs (8%)   ● Mission (7%)



**CPC Annual Budget 2017**  
**\$467,905**

## News from Session

- Session has reviewed some of the recommendations from General Assembly related to aboriginal issues and will be proceeding with recognizing that Central Church rests on the traditional territories of the Anishnaabeg and Haudenosaunee Nations.
- Central has been assigned a Syrian refugee family of five. The family should arrive in the near future. The Syrian Refugee ad hoc committee will be providing details as the process progresses.
- Session continues to monitor the financial situation of the church. Committees are being prudent in their spending and we are praying that the financial resources needed to support our ministries will be provided. Session wants to thank everyone for their generosity to date and asks that you keep our situation and how each of us can help in your prayers.
- We continue to focus on the following 2020 directions:

### 2020 Directions

#### To worship God

1. Continue our worship service, broadcast publicly, with an intentional focus on vibrancy and participation for all, including newcomers.
2. Seriously consider adding a second worship service.

#### To grow as disciples of Jesus

1. Aim for 200 people through a congregation wide, and later community wide, course on Christian Foundations.
2. Aim for 20 elders and 100 members in a Home Group.
3. Aim for 20 youth at weekly Youth Ministry Night and 25 at Faith Finders.
4. Have an annual congregational retreat.

#### To care for one another

1. Discuss a raise in the church administrator's role to full-time.
2. Hold annual, fantastic, multi-district parties, including all groups in the church.
3. Discuss a solution to parking.
4. Set up a congregational photo board that is updatable, including children, and a mailbox system.
5. Discuss a move to term service for elders, fewer elders, fewer on committees, to free up more people for more hands-on ministry; currently there are 75 spaces to fill, which is 40% of attendance.
6. Increase volunteers in Youth, Nursery and Faith Finders.
7. Enhance a ministry to Zoomers.

#### To take God's love to the world

1. Look for more hands-on mission opportunities in the neighbourhood.
2. Implement the Cornerstone Project, for underused space ([www.cpchamilton.ca/ministries/the-cornerstone-project](http://www.cpchamilton.ca/ministries/the-cornerstone-project)).
3. Install see-through exterior doors on the building to change our look to outsiders from 'fortress' to 'come-on-in'.