

# Churches ad hoc

A DIVINE COMEDY



Herman Krieger

With a Foreword by Kern R. Trembath

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A DIVINE COMEDY

Herman Krieger

*Churches ad hoc*

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## FOREWORD

Most if not all readers will be amused by what lies inside this volume. Most will be, but for a wider variety of reasons than many books enjoy. And if you are among the latter, "amuse" will turn out to be too weak a word. "Beguile" will be more likely.

The first time you read this book, you will know that it is one of those that you will return to again and again in the future. Is it a book of photography? -- of art more generally? -- of puns? -- of religious architecture? -- of questionable, comic, and at times tragic religious architecture? The answer, of course, is "yes." Hence its beguiling nature and consequent beckoning to regular revisititation.

Herman Krieger describes himself as a non-

practicing Jew who has not been to synagogue since he was 12. Would that all religious education "took" as well as his! The most obvious and, in many ways, most delightful interaction that he will quicken in you is that between caption and photo. And most of the captions will, in turn, be drawn either directly or indirectly from Jewish and Christian scriptures. Herman thus nicely illustrates the ancient insight, voiced by Ignatius Loyola but universally true, "give me a child until he is six and he will be a Catholic forever." Religious truths, often embodied in text but always pointing beyond the text to experience itself, rarely go away for good. At worst, they hibernate. In the gentle humor that is the conversation between caption and photo, this book might well awaken hibernating truths in you as well. Another beguiling level of meaning, therefore: not, "Will this re-awakening happen?" but rather, "Did Herman intend it?"

The puns in this book, that is, the multi-layered conversations between image and caption, are witty. I mean this in the widest possible sense,

what the *Oxford English Dictionary* laboriously reminds us is "that quality of speech or writing which consists in the apt association of thought and expression, calculated to surprise and delight by its unexpectedness; the utterance of brilliant or sparkling things in an amusing way." *Wit* is thus the conjunction of the author's insight and foresight that opts to use humor as the conduit to the receiver's mind. How could anything other than *wit* better account for the effects of "The High and the Lofty," "Littergy," and the adjacent, "The Pope's Answer to Luther," and the "Sign of the Crossing?" These are not simply pictures with headings; indeed, they are sermons whose spiritual precision is the more appropriated (and enjoyed) the more that one patiently awaits it. Priests at Notre Dame have been known to be fired for exceeding 10-12 minutes per sermon. It was not until well after 10 minutes, though, that I finally got the point of the sermon titled "Auto da Fe" (hint: look carefully at the car model and then at the bumper sticker). Jesus could not have been more concise.

What this volume ultimately is, then, is a book about what the catholic tradition terms "sacramentality," the insight that God's presence is mediated by any and all parts of creation, and hence that God is permanently as close, or as far away, as the individual wishes God to be. It is not that God is ever far away, though. All that the individual can accomplish is to recognize, or resist, that permanent adjacency. More than this is not given to us to do. Herman's volume shows us how perilously close that divine adjacency is on a daily basis. Easy to overlook, isn't it? Hence, all the more delightful to acquire.

A final illustration of this that I hope you will not resent. While embarking from vastly different shores, Herman and I share much of our respective journeys. We are both graduates of the University of California at Berkeley. We are both avid bicyclists, a habit nurtured at that same University. Computers are the primary "how" by which we serve our professions and our constituencies. We are both drawn to the subtle, the common, and the

humorous as the means by which religion is seen as universally evident. I say this not to elevate myself to his level of insight, attentiveness, or artistry, but instead simply to add one closing picture to this volume. Thank you, Herman, for including me in it. Kern R. Trembath, Assistant Chairman

The Department of Theology  
The University of Notre Dame

## PREFACE

The genesis of *Churches ad hoc* was the photograph I made of a cross that seemed to rise up out of a tree. The cross, located in a park overlooking Eugene, Oregon, created a controversy regarding the separation of church and state. Proponents of the cross called it a war memorial. Others saw it as a religious symbol. I titled the photograph "Propagation on the Mount". Thus began the series of captioned photographs

with a cross as the unifying element. The series was first exhibited at the PhotoZone Gallery in Eugene.

*Churches ad hoc* was introduced on the Internet in 1996. Since then, references to it have appeared in a large number of Christian, as well as atheist, web sites. Each group seems to find a reflection of their own views in the captioned photographs. Excerpts from the series have appeared in places as diverse as the Internet edition of *The New York Times*, a Methodist church calendar, a rock band cassette cover, the religion pages of the Stockholm *Svenska Dagbladet* newspaper, and a Cornell Law School poster for a national conference on *The Constitution and Religion: Theory and Practice*.

I take photographs to amuse myself as well as the occasional spectator. Exhibiting photographs for mutual pleasure is similar to a comedian telling jokes to an appreciative audience. But comedy is more serious than photography.

Viewers who see more in my photographs than I do probably have better vision, and I welcome their compliments. Those who see less than I do may be right, and I remain partially open to their criticism.



## Propagation on the Mount



**Church of High Fidelity**



**St. Mark VI Model**



SAVE  
ST.  
BRIGID  
CHURCH



**Littergy**



**The Pope's Answer to Luther**



**Society of Feathered Friends**



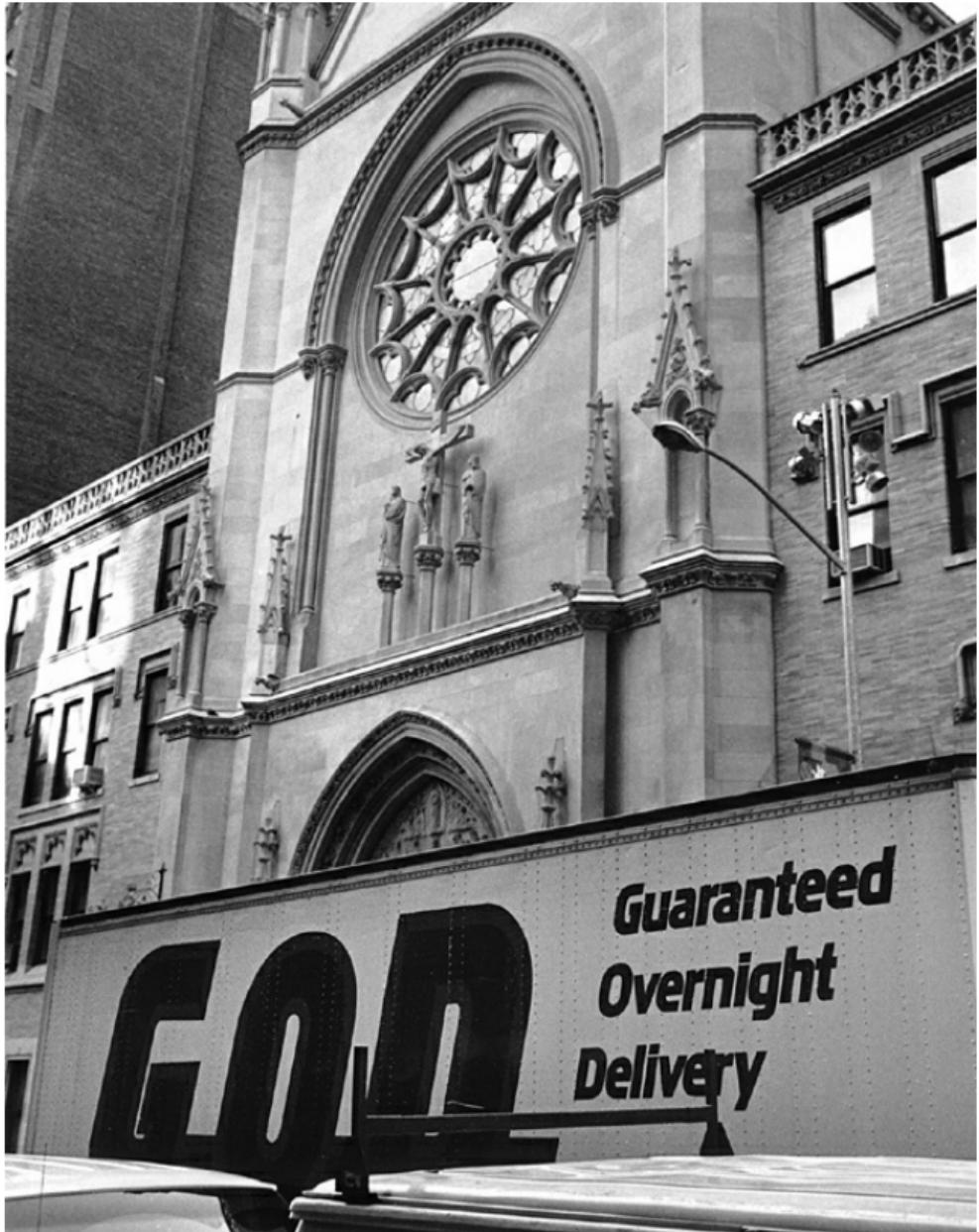
**Doves of Color**



## Far Eastern Orthodox



**For Whom the Bells Toll**



**Immaculate Delivery**



**Perishioners Meeting Place**



*I will never forget you,  
See, upon the palms of my hands I  
have written your name;*

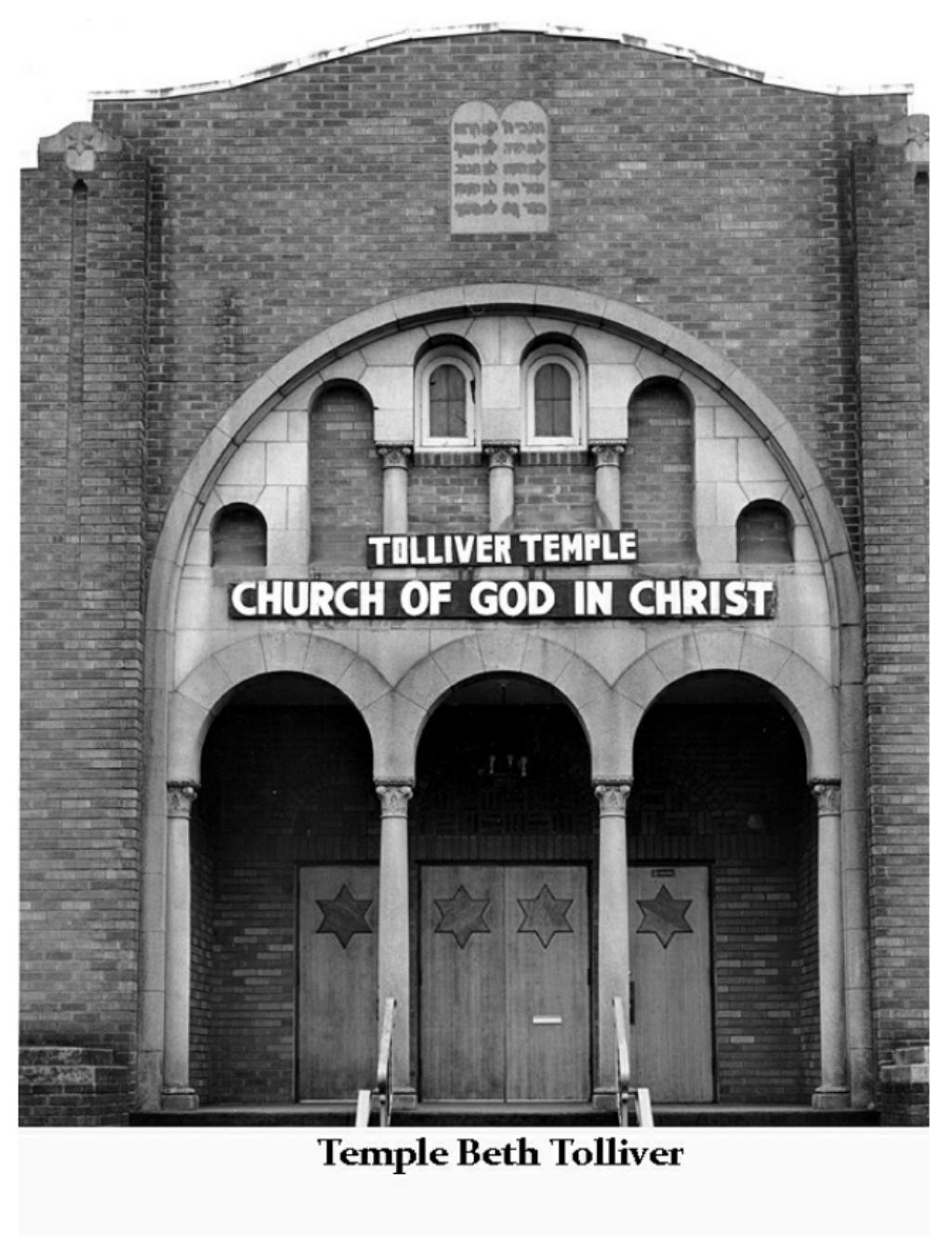
*Isaiah 49:15-16*

*Dedicated to the Unborn*



COUNCIL  
7453

**Fetal Position**



אֶלְאֵלֶּה כָּלִילָה  
אֶלְאֵלֶּה כָּלִילָה  
אֶלְאֵלֶּה כָּלִילָה  
אֶלְאֵלֶּה כָּלִילָה  
אֶלְאֵלֶּה כָּלִילָה  
אֶלְאֵלֶּה כָּלִילָה

**TOLLIVER TEMPLE  
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

**Temple Beth Tolliver**



Central United  
Methodist Church

JAZZ SUNDAY MAY 28  
"BLUES STREET BAND"  
BREAKFAST 8AM WORSHIP 1030 AM

**When the Saints Come Marching In**

PLEASANT VIEW  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
INDEPENDANT  
&  
DEPENDABLY FUNDAMENTAL

SERVICE HOURS

SUNDAY SCHOOL	10:00 A.M.
PREACHING	11:00 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY EVENING	7:00 P.M.

PASTOR DEREK FARMER

phone: 328-2944

PLEASANT VIEW  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
INDEPENDANT  
&  
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WEDNESDAY EVENING	7:00 P.M.

PASTOR DEREK FARMER

phone: 328-2944

MORRIS FOUNDED  
1868  
CHURCH BUILT  
1882



**St. Urban Renewal**



**Roadside Confessional**



**Church of the Rising Son**



**All Seoul's Church**



**Disestablishment**



**Defender of the Faith**



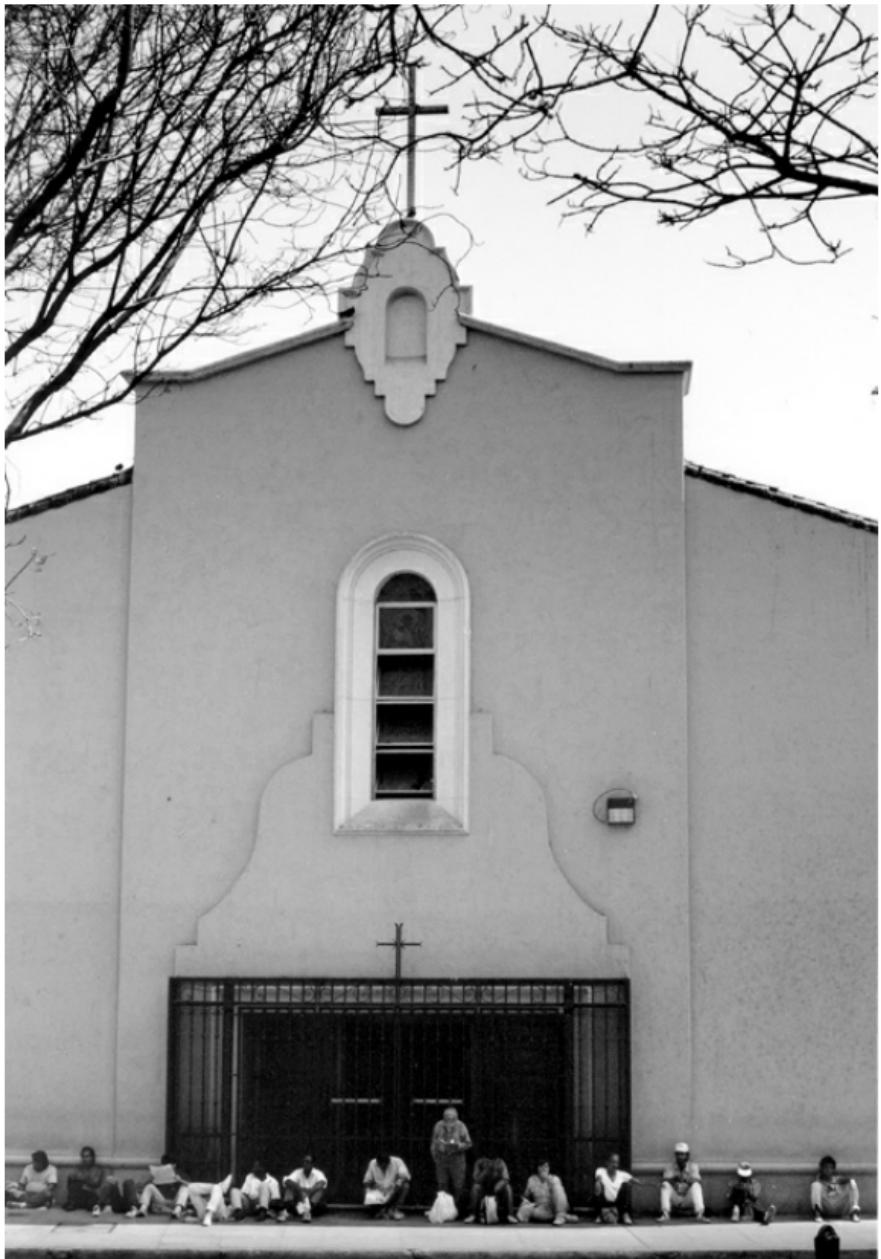
**Shaker School**



**Easter Prom**



**Temple of Antenna**



**Waiting for Godot**



**Holy Roller**



*Blurry*



**Auto da Fe**



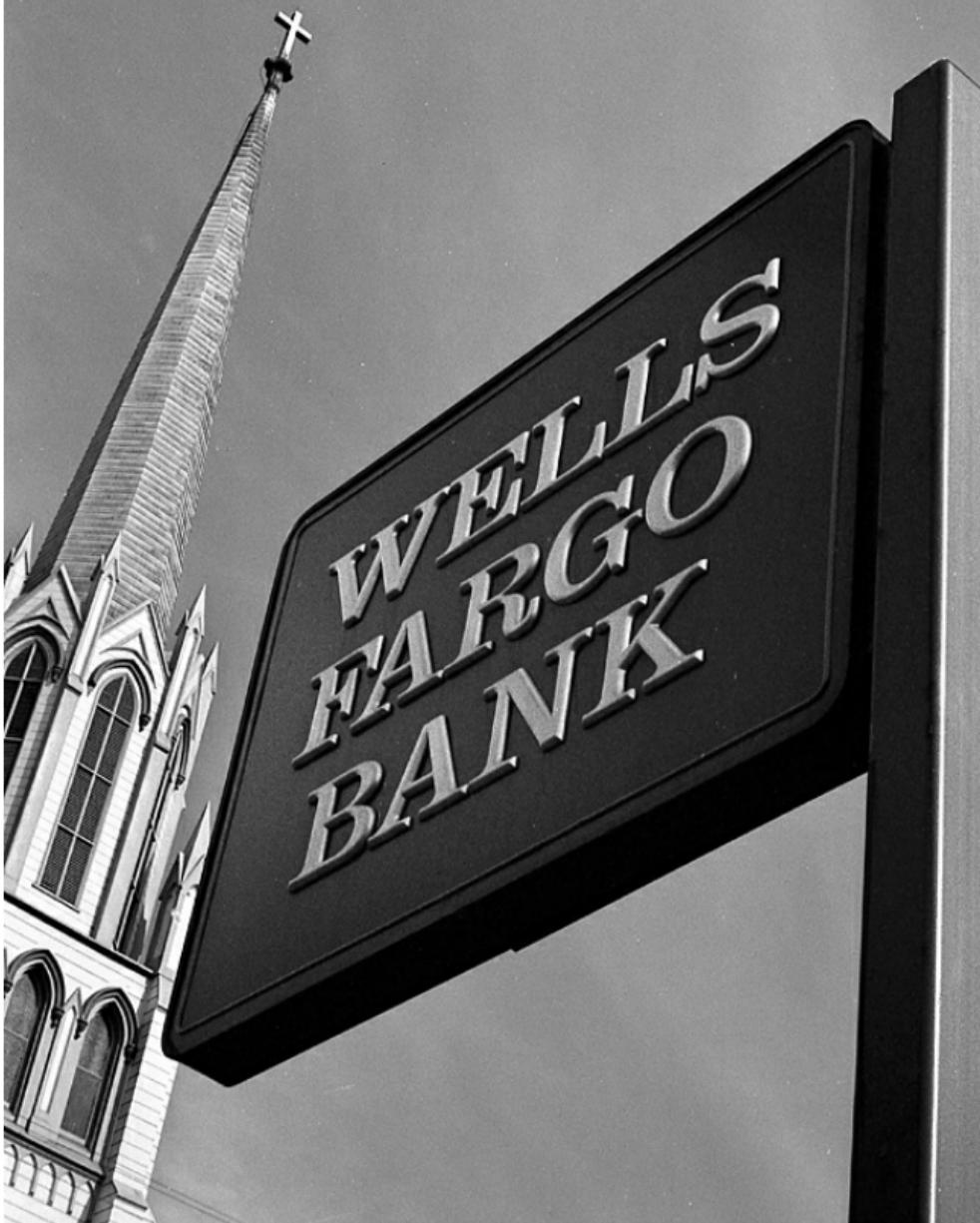
**Our Lady of Hell's Angels**



**Carpal Deum**



**Glory, Glory, Hallelujah**



**California Gothic**



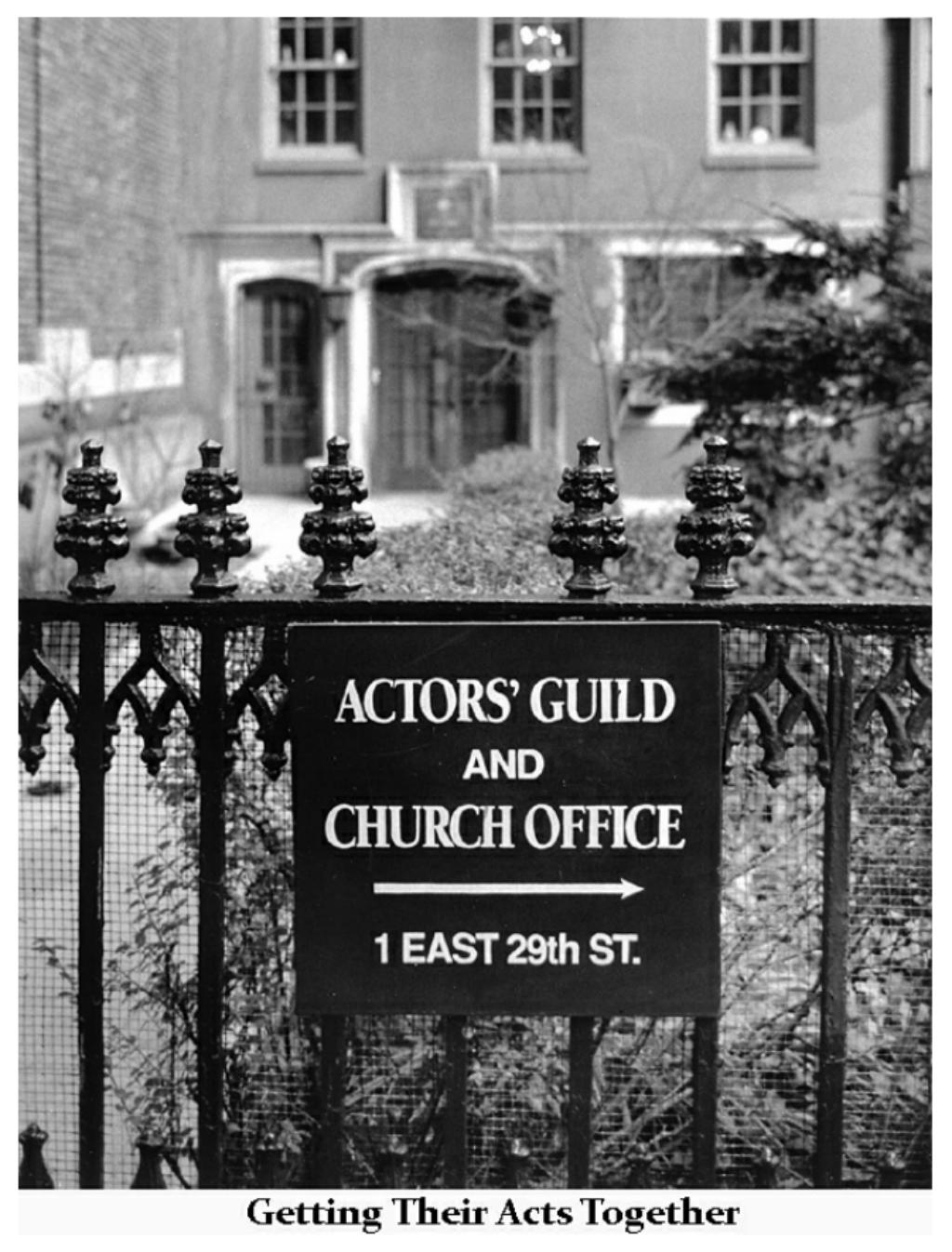
**Signs of the Times**



**Sino qua non**



**Peace Sign**



ACTORS' GUILD  
AND  
CHURCH OFFICE

1 EAST 29th ST.

Getting Their Acts Together



**Palm Sunday**



**First Church of Salem**



**Christopher Wren House**



**Under the Tree of Heaven**



SELF-GUIDED TOURS  
BEGIN IN GIFT SHOP

**Follow the Wise Men**



**Telecommunion**



**The Light from Above**

The  
**METHODIST**  
**CIRCUIT RIDER**



MA  
196

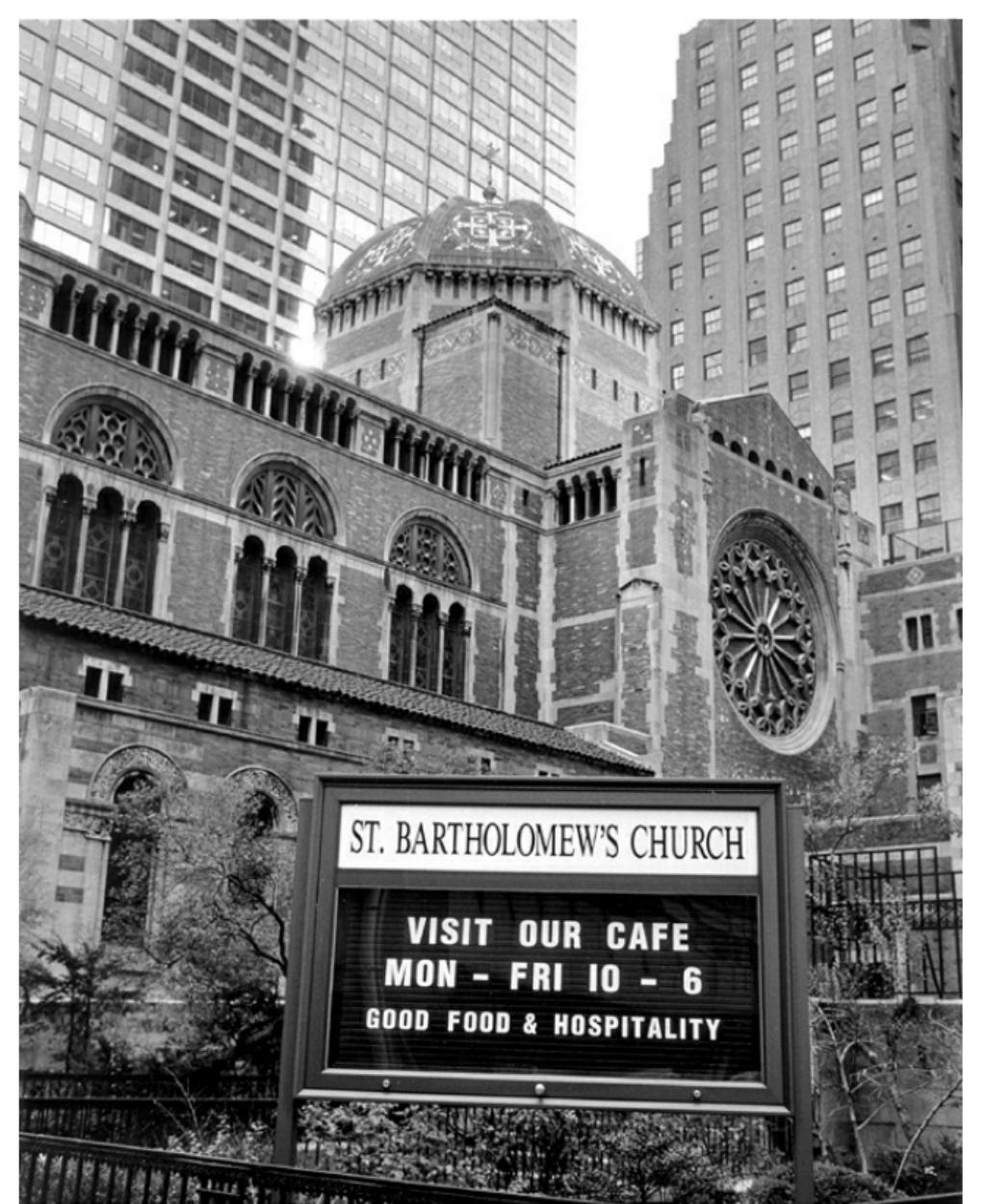
**Sermon on the Mount**



**Half-creed**



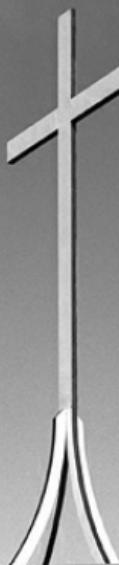
**Library of Congregation**



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

VISIT OUR CAFE  
MON - FRI 10 - 6  
GOOD FOOD & HOSPITALITY

**Not for Mass Consumption**



**Mass Transportation**

†

HEARING AID INSIDE

CONFESSORIAL

**Sound Doctrine**



**CryptoCoptic**



**Icone**



**Ro-Deo**

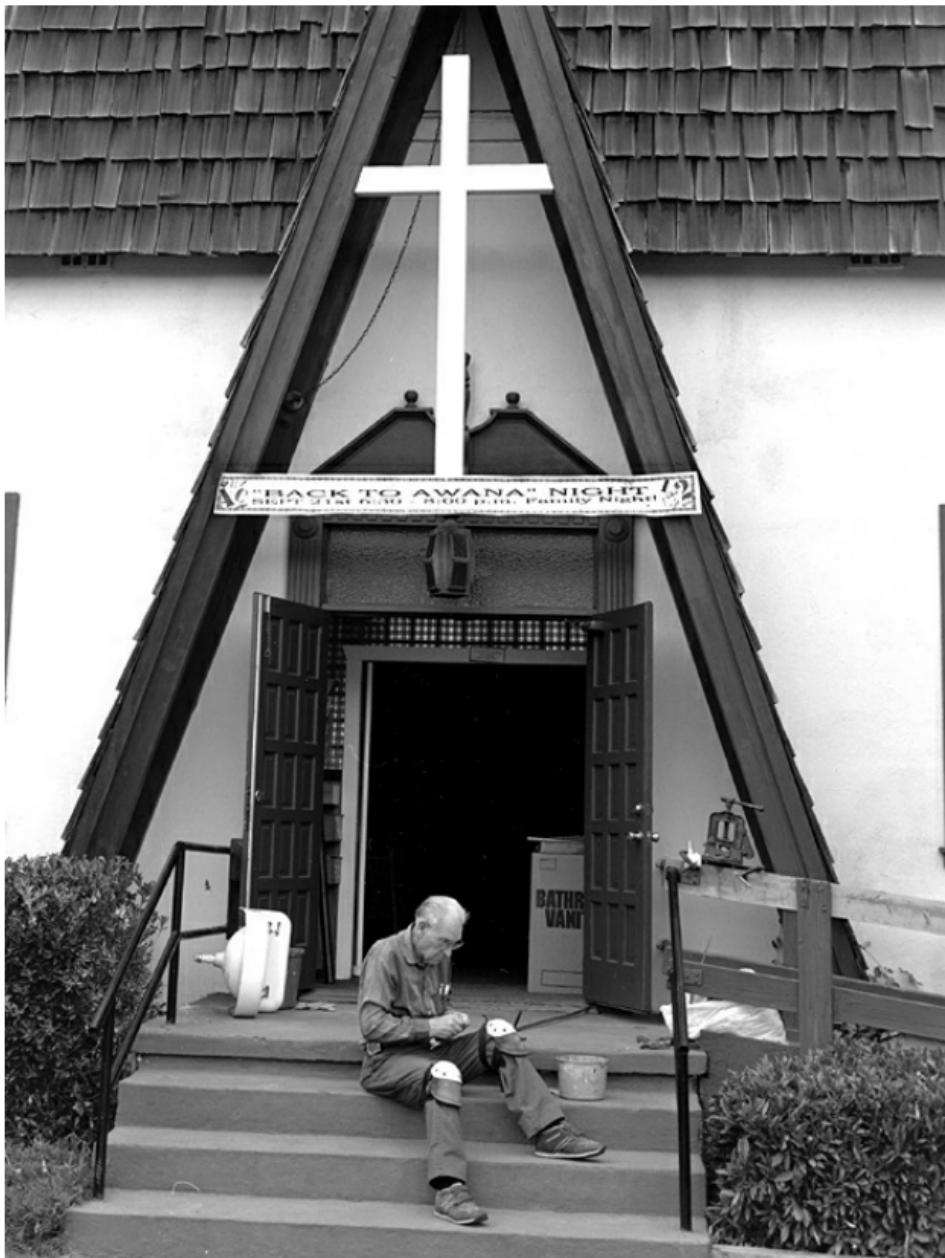
III Pima St. Baptist Church

KEYBOARD PLAYER  
NEEDED, CONTEMPORARY  
WORSHIP 795-7646

Must be PC and Know Thy Apples



**Road to Repentance**



**John the Baptiser**

# CHRISTIAN DEAF CHURCH



**Waiting for a Sign**



ST. MARY'S IN THE MOUNTAINS:

THE CRADLE OF CATHOLICISM IN WESTERN NEVADA

KNOWN AS THE "BONANZA CHURCH" BECAUSE OF THE RICH SILVER MINES OF THE LAST CENTURY, THIS MOTHER CHURCH OF THE COMSTOCK LODE TRACES ITS HISTORY TO 1858 WHEN REV. JOSEPH GALLAGHER (1821-87) OFFERED THE FIRST MASS IN NEVADA. HIS BROTHER, REV. HUGH P. GALLAGHER (1815-82), OPENED THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN VIRGINIA CITY IN 1860. DESTROYED BY THE WINDS OF THE FOLLOWING WINTER, THIS CHURCH WAS REPLACED IN 1864 WHEN REV. PATRICK MANOGUE (1831-95) ERECTED A NEW CHURCH A BLOCK AWAY FROM HERE. THE PRESENT CHURCH, ORIGINALLY BUILT IN 1868, WAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED IN THE GREAT FIRE OF 1875 BUT REBUILT IN 1876. TODAY ST. MARY'S STANDS HERE AS A TREASURE OF THE OLD WEST AND IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS A NATIONAL CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SITE.

ERECTED IN 1991 BY

THE INTERNATIONAL



*Order of Alhambra*



**It Started with 30 Pieces of Silver**

7720



**Sanctuary**



T.G.I.F.



**Window Dressing**



protected by **ADT**  
Security Services

**In ADT We Trust**



**Many are Called, Few are Dialed**



**John the Baptiser**



**Service Entrance**



**Sun Worshippers**



**Hellfire Fighters**

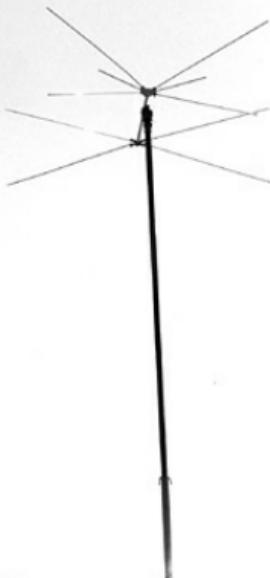


HE IS ALIVE

**The Village Golem**



**Requiem**



**MISSION APOSTOLICA  
DE LA FE  
EN  
CRISTO JESUS**

SERVICIOS

MARTES 7:00 PM JUEVES 7:00 PM



**Latino Rites**



**Atlas Shrugged**



**Roman Candles**



**And Nobody Stopped to Pray**



**Toot for Tet**



**Plenty of Gas and Hot Air**

SAINT MICHAEL  
UKRAINIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH



**Forgive Us Our Trespasses**



## Heart Transplant

CHRISTIAN  
INDIAN CENTER

ED L. RICE  
GENERAL MINISTER

Sunday Morning 11:00

Wednesday Evening 7:00



**What you mean, Paleface?**



# Abundant Life Fellowship

RANDAL W. TALCOTT, PASTOR

81

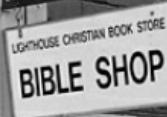
PLEASE  
RING BELL  
FOR SERVICE!



## For Whom the Bell Tolls



BARBER  
SHOP



LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN BOOK STORE  
BIBLE SHOP



Our Father's ears are never  
**CLOSED**  
to the Prayers of His Children

**Splitting Hairs**

# The High and the Lofty



# Visitations Expected



Follow the Straight and Narrow



# Station of the Cross





ASSEMBLES OF GOD

# FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL   MORNING WORSHIP   EVENING SERVICE  
9:30 AM                    10:30 AM                    6:00 PM

JOIN US  
TO BATTLE AGAINST  
TRUTH DECAY

Try our Fluoridated Baptisms

No Opiate for the Masses





Unisextarian

ZION  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

Young Zionist



ALMIGHTY GOD  
WE PRAISE  
YOU

Angus Dei

† PRIVATE  
CHURCH PARKING  
ONLY

UNAUTHORIZED CARS  
WILL BE TOWED  
AT OWNER'S EXPENSE TO  
DIVINE'S  
TOWING  
W 203 3rd 455-8622

2

Enforced by Divine Power

Halo Mary





Arch Angels



Watchtower

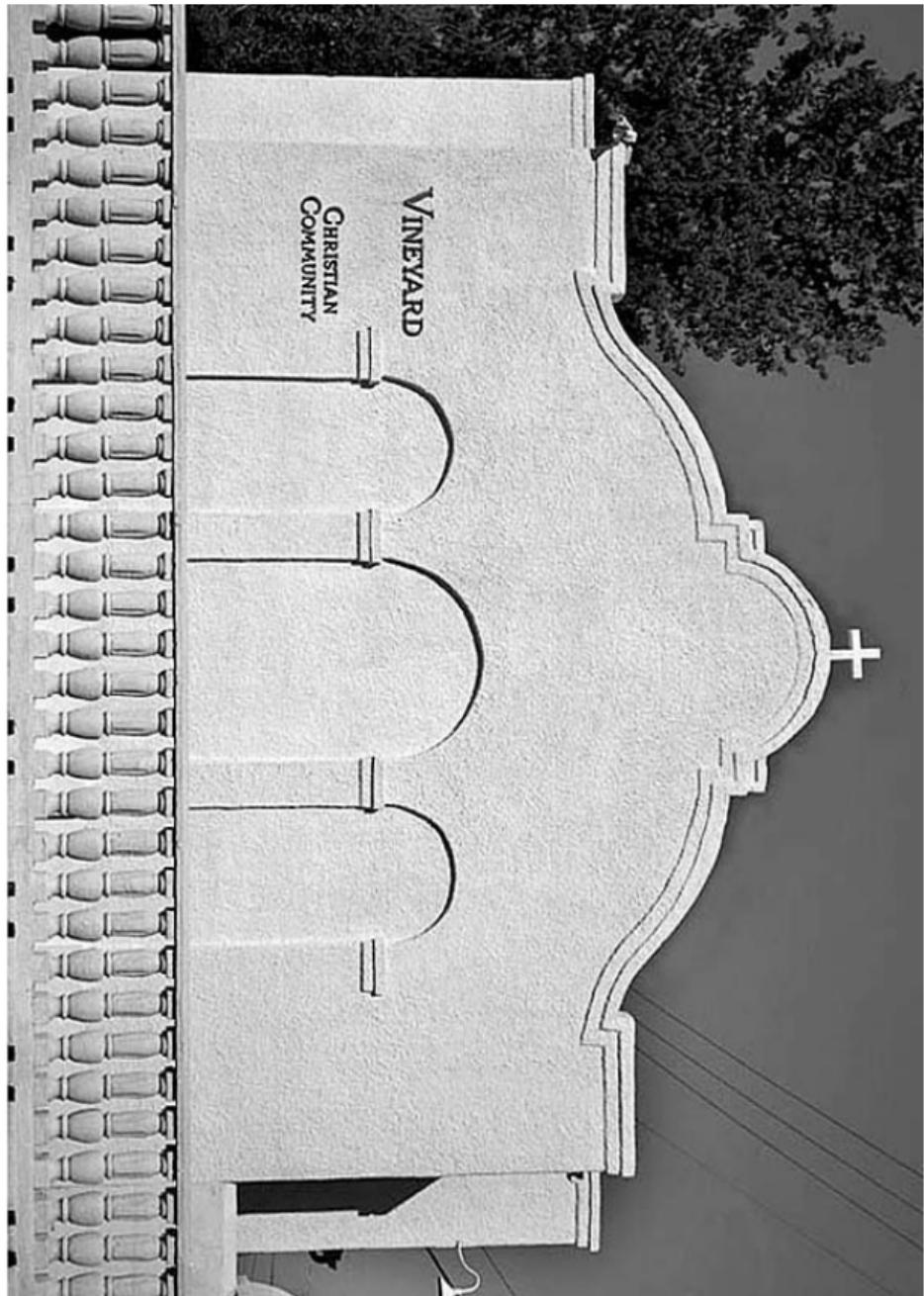
Faith Healing



WELCOME

WASH

Ritual Washing



In Vino Veritas

Early Gate Missionary  
Baptist Church

Portal to Portal

# Krisscross



# Sign of the Crossing





Papal Audience



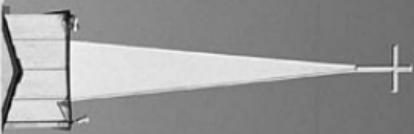
## Commercial Break

Abandon Windows All Ye Who Enter Here





# good brother's ANTIQUES



That Old Time Religion

Synergy

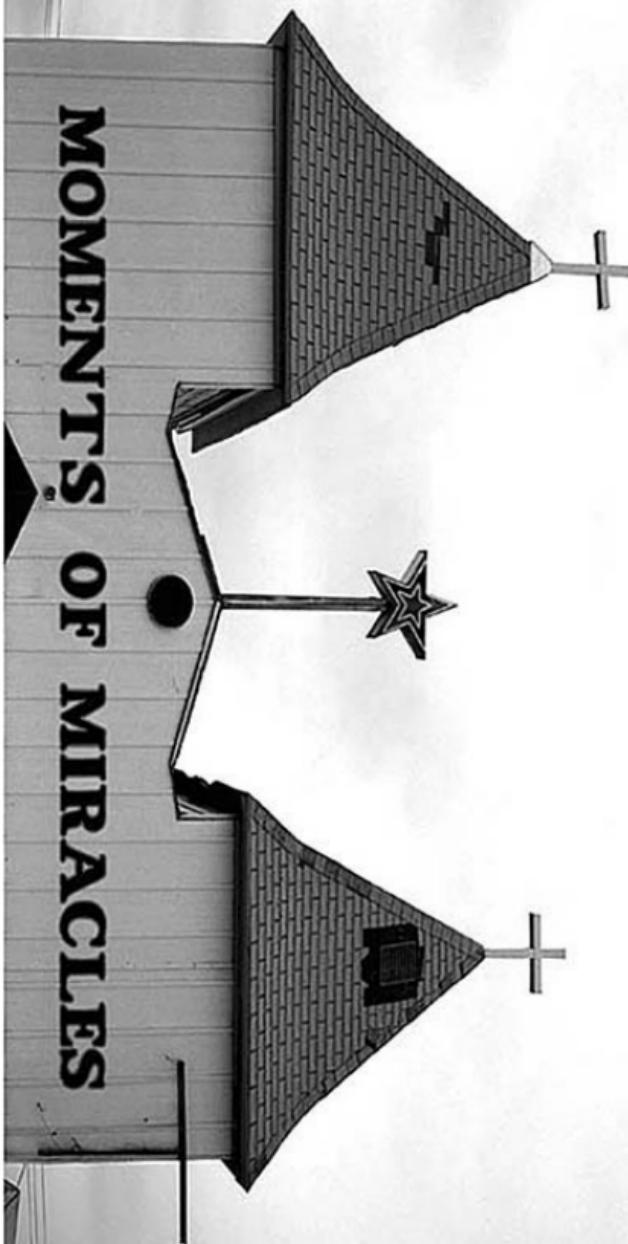


CROSSROADS  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

t

# MOMENTS OF MIRACLES

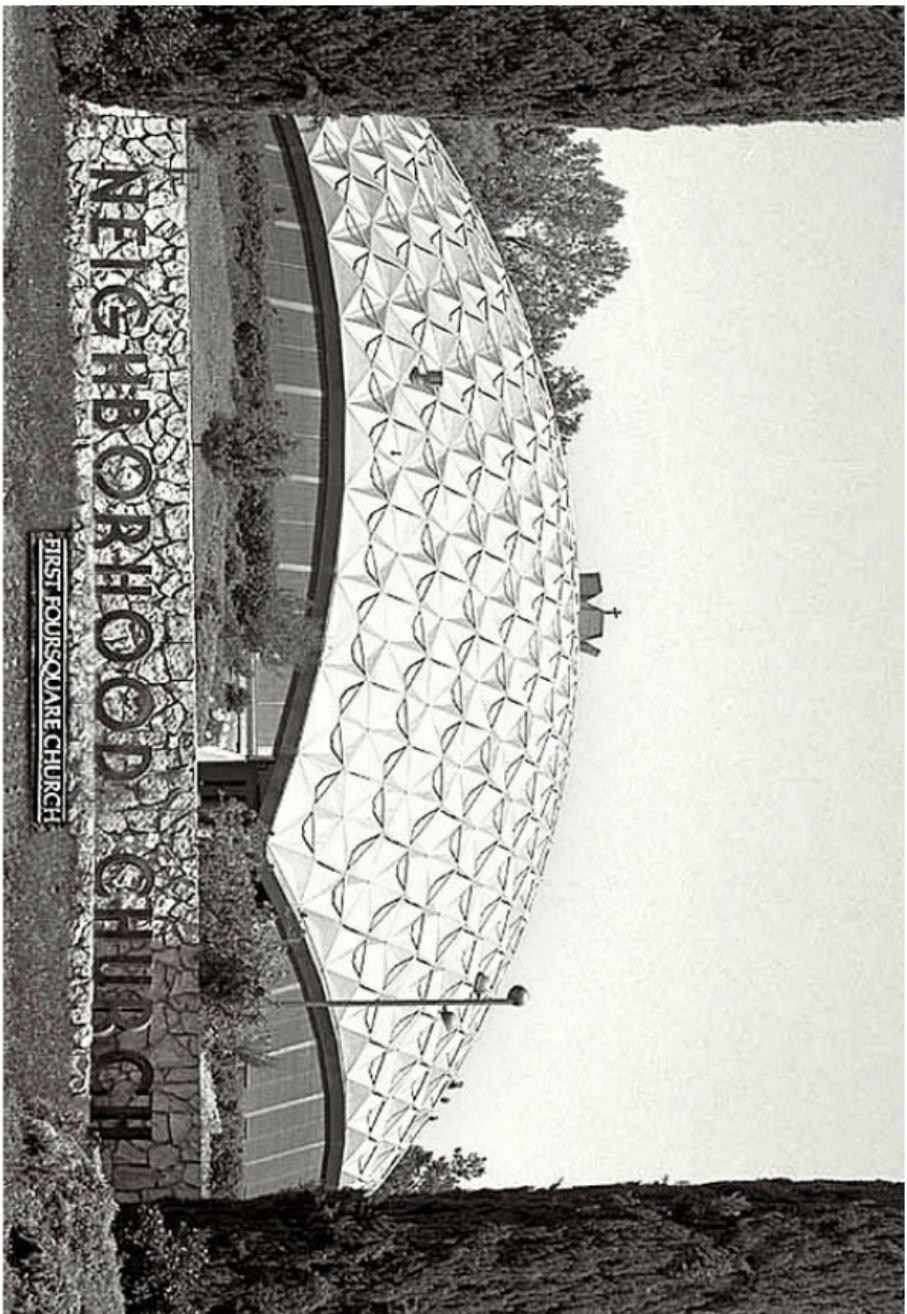
Flight of Fancy



# Squaring the Circle

FIRST FOURSQUARE CHURCH

NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH



# Teaching the Monroe Doctrine



PRE  
SCHOOL  
**Now Enrolling**  
3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

CREATIVE LEARNING CENTER

**FIRST**  
**UNITED**  
**METHODIST**  
**CHURCH**

Creative Design



Service Station

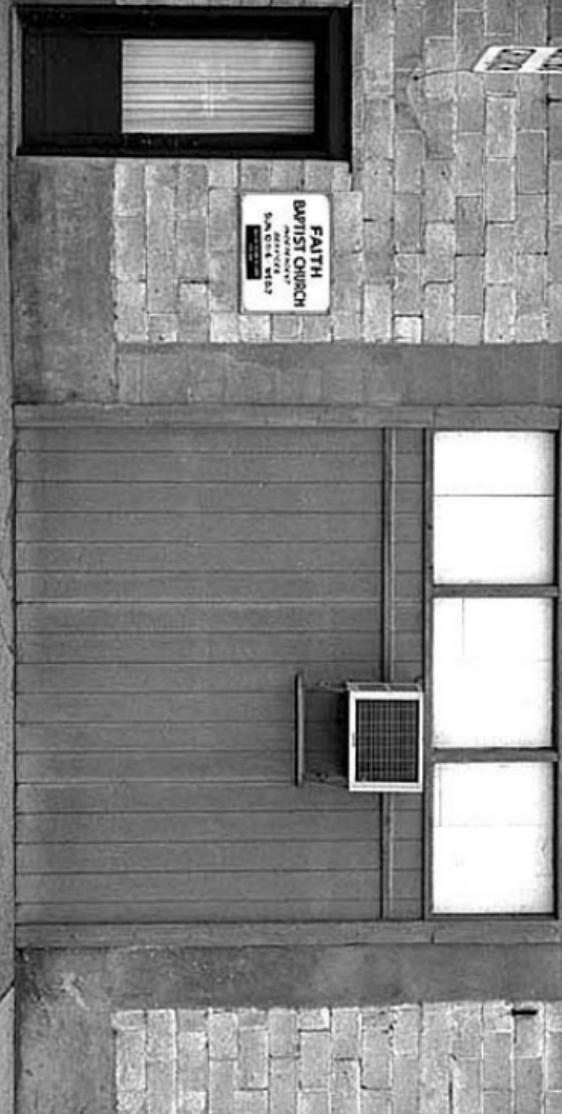


The Power and the Glory

# Key to the Kingdom



SHOP ENTRANCE



## Service Entrance



[www.efn.org/~hkrieger](http://www.efn.org/~hkrieger)