

# The Valley Echo

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ July / August 2013



#### **Contact Information**

Interim Pastor Gerald (Gerry) C. Hanberry 301-788-6546

#### Council

President: Allen Dutterer
Vice-Pres.: Sharon Chapman
Secretary: Timna Shaw
Treasurer: Dale Geiman

#### **Elders**

Angie Bowersox Sharon Chapman Ketti Dutterer Justin Geiman Genny Rohrback Robert Smith

#### **Ministry Team Leaders**

Finance: Dale Geiman
Christian Ed: Susie Gist
Outreach: Timna Shaw
Pastor/Staff: Donna Geiman
Property- (acting leader):
Allen Dutterer
Worship: Donna Geiman

#### **Committees/Groups**

**ABC Singles:** Mary Emma Bowen

Consignment Sale: Vicki Huber-Geiman

F.A.I.T.H.: Lynn Walter

Fall Fest : Betty Cree

Wellness:

Mary Emma Bowen, Parish Nurse

#### Interim Pastor's Column --- The Rev. Dr. Gerald (Gerry) C. Hanberry...

I don't know about you all, but I love the summertime. I love being outside, working in my small and limited vegetable garden, mowing grass (even though I ride the wrong color lawn mower — and yes I own it), weeding and trimming and all the rest. One of the reasons I enjoy this outside work is that it's usually time spent with Pat, my wife. She is an avid gardener and has a beautiful flower garden all around our house. Sharing this time together, even if we're in different parts of our yard, is a gift.

I also love working outside in the garden because it gets me down on my knees in the earth, in the dirt, in the heart of God's good creation. This invites me to pray...sometimes.

I grew up on a very large dairy farm in South Carolina, where my dad was a poorly paid supervisor of those men and a few of us young guys (kids really) who farmed the crops. There were a couple thousand acres of corn, hay and oats. I drove a tractor (a little red one compared to the tractors of today) doing plowing in those days the ground was turned and harrowed after every crop was cut or harvested—and some summers I bailed hay and straw almost all summer long. And by the way, the going wage for me and for those grown men --most of them lived in a "company" house owned by the farm (Edisto Farm Dairy)—was \$4.00 a day. And a day, of course, was sunup to sundown. Not even then a living wage. Mostly a throw-back to the days of slavery.

It was hard work but I got to "drive a tractor" most all the time. For me in those years, that was pretty cool.

My dad, who was called "Big Daddy" by just about everyone in the town of Denmark, loved his own vegetable garden by our house. He plowed that garden with his favorite mule, Kitt. Even though my dad has been gone since 1992, I can still see him out in that garden plowing Kitt...yelling "haw or gee" (haw was for the mule to turn or pull to the left and gee to the right). Big Daddy was at his best, was in his glory, was happiest, I think, working in his garden.

And that's the other reason I love working outside in the dirt in my garden. I get to spend time with Big Daddy. Sometimes, I must confess, I don't think he would approve of the way I plant things or the way I use my motorized tiller to plow the garden. But, you know, when I stand back and see the tomatoes and peppers and squash flourishing and producing delicious food for our table and I know he is smiling down on me with pride and love.

That's part of why this experience for me is so special. It is possibly one of the most spiritual experiences of my life. Being down on my knees in God's good earth, kneeling and praying, talking with my dad (or should I say with my father in heaven) is such a good and loving place to be. It is my spiritual practice. It is my spiritual connection with the earth, with my dad, with my early life and with my God.

I hope there is something like this that you love this summer. I hope in whatever that might be that you are blessed and that out it you become a blessing.

Faithfully, Pastor Hanberry

#### **Notes & Thank Yous**

Betty and members of St Matthews UCC,

Thank you for including us in your annual picnic this year. Even though the weather didn't cooperate, we were able to enjoy a picnic lunch and meet some new folks at St Matthews. Keep in mind, that most us of present are lifelong members of Baust and have lived and worked in the area much of our lives. Consequently, we knew many of the folks present.

We look forward to having more joint activities with your church.

Once again, thank you for the invitation. it was most appreciated.

~ Sandy

#### Special Thank You!

A special thank you to Betty Cree and her helpers, who worked very hard at planning and organizing the Church Picnic. Unfortunately, the rain drove us indoors, but the rain did not dampen the spirits and fun. It was great to meet for the first time or reacquaint ourselves with some folks from Baust. One thing we have in common with Baust- is that both churches have really good cooks!

Dear St. Matthew's,

Thank you so much for the card and money. I loved the card. The money will go towards my books for college. Thank you so much again.

~ Jenn Mora

# **Quilting Group**

The Quilting Group recently worked on quilted



bedrunner to be given to Pastor Dale and Diana. Unfortunately, the project was not completed in time to be presented to them on their last day with us. Happily, we were able **QUILTING** to present the bedrunner and matching pillow to Diana when she visited our group in May.

We took pictures and they will be on the table in the entrance soon.

#### Wellness

#### Get Moving and Get Healthy

Just 30 minutes a day of physical activity is enough to reap abundance of health benefits. It's not as hard as you think. One of the best activities for improving your health and controlling your weight is also the simplest: walking.

10 reasons to start walking: Going for regular, brisk walks may.....

- Help you lose weight and maintain that loss.
- -Improve cholesterol levels and blood pressure.
- Reduce your risk of having a heart attack or stroke.
- Decrease your risk of developing type 2 diabetes
- Lower your risk of getting several types of cancer.
- Help prevent bone loss and injuries resulting from falls.
- Reduce pain and disability stemming from arthritis.
- Boost your energy, optimism and enthusiasm.
- Ease any stress, depression and anxiety you are feeling
- Help you get a better night's sleep.

Walking is a great form of exercise for people of all sizes and ages. But to be on the safe side, check with your doctor before starting any new exercise routine, if you have a long term medical condition such as high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes or arthritis.

Adapted from www.carefirst.com

## Book Club

July's book is Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe. This meeting date to be announce later. Please join us for a lively and sometimes silly discussion that always includes good snacks and great people. If you are interested in joining us please contact Vicki at 410-751-9394 or vhuberg@gmail.com

### **Fallfest Update**

Fallfest is right around the corner. It is hard to imagine on these hot steamy days. Now is the time to plan how



you can help. One way is to make a monetary donation, to help defray the upfront expenses, such as the rent of the fire house, and the entertainment. Maybe you can skip a fancy coffee once a week and donate that money or consciously set back money for that purpose. We have placed change jars in church, to help ease your back pain from all the change you have in your pockets.

When you donate your change it helps you and the church. The next Fallfest meeting is July 24 at 7:00, everyone is welcome to help plan.

# Pastor Hanberry's Approach to and Policy for Pastoral Care

Confidentiality in all communications with people in the church is my policy – always. In other words, "what is shared with me, stays with me."

If a person in the church is ill or in the hospital or going to have surgery, I will always ask, "what do you want me to share with the church about your illness, your surgery, etc., if anything?" I, of course, will honor your request and preferences.

Some folks prefer that their illness or a hospital stay be kept private. Others are more open to sharing with the congregation or desire prayers from the church community. I prefer to follow the wishes of the individual or family directly rather than responding to what one might call "hear-say." Folks in the congregation may share whatever they choose; however, my policy requires that I speak directly with the person or a primary family member before I share news about a person's life circumstances.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime via my cell phone (301-788-6546) to request a visit, to share a health issue or a pastoral care need. Given the flexibility I will have in serving two churches (St. Matthew's and Emmanuel (Baust), I will be in a good position to respond to your pastoral care needs as they arise.



# .... LOVE KINDNESS



Pastor Gerry's recent sermon series focused on Micah 6:8 – What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

One interpretation of "to love kindness" is to desire to do good for others. Is there any better way to "love kindness" that to reach out to those around us and share our God-given gifts and talents?

Don't forget that our Talents and Needs Program is an ongoing project at St. Matthew's! Let's everyone find a way to love kindness over the next few months by finding ways that we can reach out to those in our membership and in the community who might need a helping hand—someone who might benefit from the sharing of our gifts and talents with him or her. If you have a "need" for someone else's special gift (or talent), just pass a note to one of the Elders, put your need request in the offering plate, or enter your request on the board in the hallway outside of the office.

"We all have something we know, or know how to do, that can be used to help someone else."

> "If a person gives you his time, he can give you no more precious gift."

"Let God use you to make a difference in someone's life."

## Gifts and Talents Shared

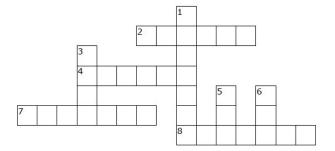
Many of our members have musical talents. It is truly a blessing for them to share those gifts and talents. Special thank you to Baleigh Geiman who shared a saxophone solo, Deanna Lui an organ solo, Justin K. a piano solo and Ryleigh Geiman a clarinet solo.

# Meeting and Events Calendars



Monthly calendars up to December 2013 are on the bulletin board in the entrance hall to the church. Please remember to list the meetings or special events your committee/team has planned. This information is used in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter.

#### Kid's Corner



#### **ACROSS**

- The one who paid the price for our sin
- Payment for the release of someone
- To accept something such as a aift
- 8. Without end; lasting forever

#### DOWN

- To give your word or agree to do something
- 3. Without cost
- 5. To come to the end of life
- 6. To disobey God's law

PROMISE	ETERNAL	CHRIST	RANSOM
DIE	FREE	SIN	RECEIVE

## **Stewardship Notes**



Our role as God's steward is one of many dimensions-grateful, responsible, self-sacrificing, willing, sharing, proportionate, committed, regular, genuine, and challenged. By generously giving of ourselves, we discover joy in Christ. "...you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

During 2013 we will highlight the 10 Stewardship Principles.

Give Willingly as moved by the Holy Spirit. We have been prepared to give of ourselves. We give our time, talents, and resources freely.

"For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave..."

2 Corinthians 8:3

# A One Room School House Summer Sunday School

During the summer months we continue to have Sunday School, but we conduct our Christian Education as a one room School House. All ages are together, young and older, singing, learning, sharing and praying. If you have not joined us, you are missing a lively group.

We would welcome anyone who would be willing to teach a Sunday to give a break to our regular teachers. If you would be interested in teaching, please let Susie Gist know.

With all the natural disasters that have been occurring we have decided to have a mission project during the summer. We have selected to make Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. These hygiene kits can make the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

If you can donate any of the following, it would be greatly appreciated. At the end of August, the students will be organizing the kits to take to New Windsor for shipment.

One hand towel measuring approximately 16"x28"
One wash cloth
One wide tooth comb
One nail clipper
One bar of soap (bath sized in wrapper)
One toothbrush in original packaging
Six standard Band-Aids

There will be a box near the resource table and one in the Sunday School. Any questions, please feel free to call Donna Geiman 410-848-0010 or email at donna.a.geiman@gmail.com

## **Prayer Concerns**

There is now a prayer concerns book on the table in the entry hallway. You may place someone on the prayer list by writing in the book. Anytime Mary Emma Bowen, Betty Gragg or the church office receives a prayer request, they will write it in the prayer concern book. People will be listed on the prayer list for 30 days. You may continue to have a person listed by writing their name again in the book, contacting Mary Emma, Betty Gragg, or the church office.

#### Crossword Puzzle Answers:

- 1. Promise, 2. Christ, 3. Free, 4. Ransom, 5. Die,
- 6. Sin, 7. Receive, 8. Eternal

#### **Fall Fest Car Show**

We are seeking sponsors for the 2013 Fall Fest Car Show. Sponsorships help defray costs and allow our church to give greater support to the missions we supports throughout the year. There are several ways you can help...

**Donate Items for Our Door Prizes:** They do not have to be car related. We will also be happy to pick up any items that you wish to donate.

**Donate Items for Our Goodie Bags**: We offer goodie bags to the first 100 participants and they can include a number of items such as pens, pencils, key chains, magnets, memo pads, candy, and other items with, or without company logos. If you have 100 of these types of items, we would be glad to include them in the goodie bags given to our show participants.

Monetary Sponsorship:	Gold \$200+	Silver \$100+	Bronze \$50+	Trophy Sponsor (see list below)
Sponsor plaque*	X			
Link to your company website	X			
Company logo and contact information printed on "goodie bags"*	X	X		
Opportunity to distribute handouts during show.	X	X		
Business logo & contact information posted on car show web page	X	X	X	\$50+ in trophy sponsorships
Verbal recognition at show during award ceremony	X	X	X	X
Day of show signs & posters.*	X	X	X	X
Mention of sponsorship in our church newsletter.	X	X	X	X

<sup>\*</sup>Recognition with commitment and payment received by September 9, 2013.

**Trophy Sponsor:** For the first time, we are accepting individual sponsorships for the trophies. Families and businesses who sponsor a trophy will be recognized during Fall Fest. If you wish to sponsor a specific trophy, please check below and we will do our best to comply with your request.

6 - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Trophy Sponsors \$13.00/each 6 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Trophy Sponsors \$9.50/each 6 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Trophy Sponsors \$8.00/each 6 - 4 <sup>th</sup> Place Trophy Sponsors \$7.00/each	<ul> <li>1 - Participant's Choice 1<sup>st</sup> Place Troph</li> <li>1 - Participant's Choice 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Troph</li> <li>1 - Participant's Choice 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Troph</li> <li>1 - Pastor's Choice Trophy Sponsor</li> <li>1 - Best of Show Trophy Sponsor</li> </ul>	hy Sponsor	\$8.25 \$8.00 \$7.75 \$6.00 sponsored \$17.00 sponsored
SPONSOR INFORMATION	SPONSORSHIP LEVE	L (check one	e)
Name:	Gold �	\$200+	
Address:	Silver �	\$100+	
City:	Bronze	\$50+	
State: Zip:	Trophy Sponsor Amount	\$	
Phone:	Total Donation Amount \$		
Email:			
Contact:	❖ Please attach or email copy of company logo.		pany logo.
Contact.	Make checks payable to: St. Matthew's U.C.C., Memo: Car Show Sponsor		

Additional forms are available on the table in the entrance hall and on the church's website. Should you have questions or wish additional information, email office@saintmatthewsucc.org or call Susan Blizzard in the church office.

# Worship Plan for St. Matthew's UCC July 7 – Sept 1, 2013

Theme: "Faith's 7 Persistent Questions"

"Faith is a quest." Faith is a journey. Faith is the process of living our lives in the inner places of our souls and in the world in which we join others in our families, work, play, worship and ministry.

Thus, faith is not something we have that we can put away at night or on vacation or leave at home while we live in the world. Faith is not something we bring to church on Sunday. Faith IS a quest or a "journey of seeking God and keeping the quest alive."

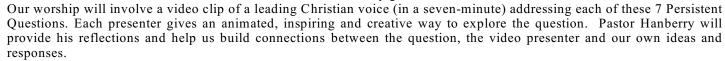
The quest –almost always—raises more questions than answers. And when we do find answers to our questions and doubts they are often only fleeting in their support.

For this series of worship in the summer of 2013, here are **Faith's 7 Persistent Questions** we will explore:

- 1. Who is God for me?
  - 2. What does it mean to be spiritual?
    - 3. What does it mean to follow Jesus?
      - 4. What is Salvation?
        - 5. What does the cross tell us about God?

6. Is the Bible worth reading over and over again?

7. Why go to Church?



We will also sing and pray and experience a few variations on worship as we usually enjoy our time on Sunday morning. That is, just for these seven Sundays, worship will be a little different each Sunday. Always, our goal is to provide worship that inspires, teaches and challenges.

Please not only pray for worship this summer but join us and discover some new ideas, uncover what you've been struggling with in your own faith quest and to deepen your commitment to the journey of faith in the 21st Century.

So, gather a friend or a neighbor and join us for worship this July and August.



#### July 7, 2013 (7th Sunday after Pentecost – proper 9)

Theme: "Faith's Persistent Question 1 – Who is God for me?" Is 55:6-11; Ps 139; Romans 11:33-36; John 1:1-5 Video Clip: Brian McLaren – "God: Faith is a Quest"

Sermon Reflections: "Our Image of God

Sacrament of Holy Communion



#### July 14, 2013 (8th Sunday after Pentecost - proper 10)

Theme: "Faith's Persistent Question 2 -- What does it mean to be spiritual?"

Hosea 14; Hebrews 12:1-2; Mark 3:31-35; and Matt 5:1-11

Video Clip: Lillian Daniel - "Spirituality is Not Enough"

Sermon Reflections: "Being Spiritual in Community = Religious"



#### July 21, 2013 (9th Sunday after Pentecost – proper 11)

Theme: "Faith's Persistent Question 3 -- What does it mean to follow Jesus?"

1 Timothy 4:4-16; Mark 8:31-38

Video Clip: Mark Scandrette – "Jesus: The Revolution of Love" Sermon Reflections: "Who Me -- Do the Crazy Things Jesus Did?"2

#### July 28, 2013 (10th Sunday after Pentecost – proper 12)

Hos 1:2-10; Ps 85; Luke 11:1-13

Sermon: The Rev. Lois Ann Furgess-Oler, guest preacher

(Continued of page 7.)



#### Worship Plan for St. Matthew's UCC July 7 - Sept 1, 2013 - Continued from page 6.

# August 4, 2013 (11th Sunday after Pentecost – proper 13) Theme: "Faith's Persistent Question 4 -- What is Salvation?" Luke 19:1-10 & John 3:16 Video Clip: Shane Hipps -- "Abundant Life Now" Sermon Reflections: "Having Eternal Life NOW" Sacrament of Holy Communion August 11, 2013 (12th Sunday after Pentecost – proper 14) Theme: "Faith's Persistent Question 5 -- What does the cross tell us about God?" Ps 51; Rom 6:1-14; & Luke 23:26-38

3??

August 18, 2013 (13th Sunday after Pentecost – proper 15)
Pastor Hanberry away on vacation...tbd

Video Clip: Nadia Bolz-Weber - "Cross: Where God Is"

Sermon Reflections: "The Crosses We Carry"

August 25, 2013 (14th Sunday after Pentecost – proper 16)

Theme: "Faith's Persistent Question 6 -- Is the Bible worth reading over and over again?"

Is40:8-9; Ps 119:103-105; John 1:14-18

Video Clip: Lauren Winner -- "A Book Like No Other" Sermon Reflections: "The Bible as Loose Leaf Binder"

Sept. 1, 2013 (15th Sunday after Pentecost – proper 17)

Theme: "Faith's Persistent Question 7 -- Why go to Church?"

Ps 150; 1 Corin 12:1-11; Eph 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:23-25;

Video Clip: Bruce Reyes-Chow – "An Imperfect Family"

Sermon Reflections: "How Open is Our Church"?

Sacrament of Holy Communion

# Go Green for 2013

Help save resources by joining St. Matthew's email list, you'll be notified monthly when the newsletter has been posted in PDF format to our website, and a paper copy will no longer be printed and mailed for your household.

To join, please send an email to office@saintmatthewsucc.org requesting the electronic newsletter or complete the form below and place in the offering plate.

Attention: Church Office

My family wishes to receive the newsletter electronically and not have a paper copy.

Family Name: _	
Email Address:	

Please check if you would also like to receive the weekly announcements electronically.

## Sunday School News



We have another opportunity for Vacation Bible School in our area. St. Mary's United Church of Christ will be having their VBS the week of July 22 thru 26, 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The theme is "Journey to the Congo". Ages 3 years old (potty trained) thru grade 5, completed are invited to participate. For more information or to register, please call Stacey Fourhman at 410-848-1017.

Also, just a reminder, Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> will be our "Vacation" Sunday. There will be no Sunday School, but worship will be held as usual. We will resume our regular class format on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have a question or need more information concerning Sunday School or Christian Education, please call Susie Gist, 410-848-2187.

# July 2013 Birthdays, Anniversaries, Upcoming Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m.	2	3 Becky Wagner	4 Lucas Geiman Naomi Smith Wellness Committee - Noon Independence Day	5 Joan Gawel Office Assistant Out of Office	6
John Bankert  14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time/ 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost- Green  A - Baleigh Geiman, Nichole Green  L - Donna Geiman  G - Betty Cree, John and Jean Means  U - Bob Smith, Mike Smith, Justin Geiman, Mel Starner  N - Danielle and Vickie Green	Church Council 7:00 p.m.	9	10 Marybell Green	11 Gail Smith	12	13
15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time/ 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Green A - Ryleigh Geiman L - Lynn Walter G- The Justin Geiman Family U - Dick Smith, Betty Cree, Marybell Green, Ketti Dutterer N - Deanna Geiman, Nichole Green	15	16 Cary Gawel	17 Jason Barnette	IS SINGLES	19	20
21  16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time/ 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Green A - Grant Shaw L - Sharon Chapman G - The Lucas Geiman Family U -Carolyn Smith, Deanna Geiman, Jolene Wagner, Lynn Walter	22	23	Fall Fest Meeting 7:00 p.m.	25	26 Katheleen Bentz	27
N - Vicki Huber-Geiman, Ryleigh Geiman		Vacation Bib	le School @ St. Mar	y's U.C.C.	Pasto	r on Vacation
28  17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time/10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost -Green A - Vicki Geiman L - Susie Gist G - Pat Desautel, Betty Gragg	29	30 Heidi Riddle	31 Helen Myers	Anniversaries Jason and Emily B	arnette - July10,	1
U- Donna Geiman, Betty Cree, Betty Gragg, Susie Gist N - Linda Fausnet, Hayden Shaw Rev. Lois Ann Furgess-Oler, Guest Preacher	Pastor on	Vacation				

# August 2013 Birthdays, Anniversaries, Upcoming Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Anniversaries Delbert & Dollie Green - August 10, 1996 Jack & Nancy Wagner - August 13, 1977 Richard & Carolyn Smith - August 19, 1967 Michael & Susie Gist - August 26, 1972 Forrest & Timna Shaw - August 28, 1993		1 2 3 Wellness Committee - Noon Pastor on Vacation			
Susie Gist 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time/ 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost-Green A - Nichole Green, Baleigh Geiman L - Carolyn Smith G - Betty Cree, Pat Desautel U - Donna Geiman, Betty Cree, Betty Gragg, Susie Gist N - Sue Mora, Jen Mora	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time/12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost -Green A - Celia Fausnet L - Lynn Walter G- Betty Cree, Mary Emma Bowen U - Mike Smith, Bob Smith, Justin Geiman, Mel Starner N - Cindy Beach, Baleigh Geiman	Church Council 7:00 p.m.	13	Newsletter Deadline - 2:00 p.m.	IS SINGLES	16	17 Dottie Coppersmith  Pastor on Vacation
18 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time/13th Sunday after Pentecost -Green A - Grant Shaw L - Deanna Geiman G - John and Jean Means U - Dick Smith, Betty Cree, Marybell Green, Ketti Dutterer N - Danielle and Vickie Green	19	20 Pa	21 stor on Vacation	22	Forrest Shaw	24 Rosanna Crebs
Jim Dutterer 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time/14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost -Green A - Vicki Green L - Susie Gist G - The Lucas Geiman Family U- Rose Crebs, Deanna Geiman, Carolyn Smith, Lyn Walter N - Deanna Geiman, Nichole Green	Robert Smith	27	28	29	30	31

Westminster 1427 Pleasa St. Matthew

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