

# the EPISTLE



### The Monthly Parish Newsletter of

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH **JULY 2021 • ISSUE 268** 

#### MEANDERINGS OF THE INTERIM: FINAL CHAPTER

Blessings and Peace be with you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

This is my final chapter in the "Meanderings of the Interim." Sunday Aug. 1st is my last Sunday to be with you either in person or Live Streamed. It has been an excellent journey! Many of you know either my social media offerings, conversations or in my sermons I am a native Buckeye and spent many years in Portsmouth as the Rector of All Saints. I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to return and walk with you all during this past year. Needless to say, for me it has been a year of Grace.

It has been Grace from my first conversation with Dot and has continued on through Mark, Leslie, the entire Vestry, Staff and all the Chairs. It has been Grace as you have accepted me for being who I am, an individual who likes to laugh, enjoys good humor, at times stubborn, believes in collegiality and Loves Jesus. Thank you for that Grace!

Like any concluding address there are many to thank, give hugs to and praise for your tireless hard work. You all gave me an incredible gift, and I am eternally grateful.

I leave you with these words;

"To all that I may have upset for not doing what you hoped I would do, please know it was not on purpose. To all that I may have pleased for doing those things you hoped I would do, please know I did not do that on purpose either."

You all have been in my prayers since I was called here last July, you all will continue in my prayers forever.

Blessings and Peace,

Chris+

Transitional Priest-in-Charge

Save

Jain us for a reception for
The Rev. Chris and Mary Jo
Thompson on
Sunday, August 1st.

Following the 10:30 a.m. service.

Refreshments will be provided.



#### THE REV. VICKI D. ZUST ACCEPTS CALL TO LEAD SAINT MARK'S



On behalf of the Vestry, we are pleased to announce that The Rev. Vicki D. Zust has accepted the call as Saint Mark's seventh Rector beginning Sept.1.

The Rev. Vicki D. Zust, who grew up, studied and ministered in central Ohio, will return to her home state to become the seventh Rector of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church. The Rev. Zust answered a call from the Saint Mark's Vestry to lead the parish, which she will do starting Sept. 1. She previously served as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Williamsville, NY, in suburban Buffalo.

"I am excited to be called to be the Rector of Saint Mark's. I can't wait to begin getting to know everyone and to become a part of the life of the congregation," she said. She added that she prefers to be called Vicki.

"Vicki brings a unique combination of training, experience and enthusiasm which promises to uplift and grow the community in and around Saint

Mark's," said Saint Mark's Senior Warden Mark Drew. "We are truly blessed to have her leadership and we are thrilled to welcome her as our new rector."

Vicki grew up in Westerville, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Master of Divinity degree from the former Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL. She served as Director of Youth Ministries at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Delaware, OH, from 1988 to 1994. She was Assistant Rector at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Bexley in 1997 and 1998 before being called as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Newark, where she served through 2004. After that she served five years as Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Southern Ohio, where her roles included working with 82 congregations in planning and stewardship, developing youth curriculum and overseeing the development of the diaconate and priesthood. Vicki was called to St. Paul's in suburban Buffalo in 2009, where she has emphasized youth and adult formation, stewardship and community involvement. During this time she also served more than four years as the Bishop's Assistant in the Diocese of Western New York.

A Rector Search Committee was appointed last September by the Saint Mark's Vestry following the retirement of The Rev. Dr. Paul St. Germain. Members of the committee were Elizabeth Anstaett, Chair; Scott Milburn, Vice Chair; Anice Ellis, Vestry Liaison; Betsy Gillespie, Barb Keyes, Michele Johnson, Dan Morton and Gloria Wylie.

"The way forward unfolded clearly for us, despite a collection of strong, equally talented and experienced candidates," Elizabeth said. "In the end I think we would all say, without qualification, that the Holy Spirit guided the process and led the committee to the right way forward for our parish."

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#### From the Music Office

Matthew Bester



What a joy it has been to experience the return of both congregational singing and choral singing on Sunday mornings during the past month! I have dearly missed the sound of a multitude of voices ringing throughout the nave. Even muffled by masks, the joy of singing has been infectious and deeply moving, as we continue to navigate the return to a semblance of normalcy.

The Saint Mark's Choir will continue to sing for many of the upcoming Sundays in July and August. Currently the group is meeting to rehearse only on Sunday mornings immediately before the 10:30 a.m. service. Public health conditions permitting, we will resume weekly Thursday night rehearsals at the end of August. It is my hope that we will have something like a normal fall season, including such special events as Choral Evensong for the Feast of All Saints in November and our Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols in December. Stay tuned for details!

#### **Canterbury Choir**

Do you know a child who likes to sing? We are hopeful that a new season for the Canterbury Choir will begin as usual in September, and the choir is looking for new members! Open to boys and girls ages 7 to 14, the Canterbury Choir rehearses weekly on Wednesday afternoons and sings for the 10:30 a.m. service on the first Sunday of every month, from September to May. Participation in the choir offers an excellent opportunity for children to learn not only about the basics of singing and music theory but also about the Episcopal faith and its liturgy. The choir is open to all members of the community, regardless of religious affiliation, and there is no cost to participate. No musical background is required. For more information, visit <a href="http://canterburychoir.saintmarkscolumbus.org">http://canterburychoir.saintmarkscolumbus.org</a> or contact Matthew Bester (<a href="https://canterburychoir.saintmarkscolumbus.org">directorofmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org</a> or 614-486-9452, ext. 309).

#### Saint Mark's Choir

The Saint Mark's Choir is looking for new members for the upcoming season, which begins in late August. The choir is open to adults and high school–age singers who are able to make a regular commitment on Thursday nights and Sunday mornings. Singers of all voice parts are welcome. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Matthew Bester (directorofmusic@saintmarkscolumbus.org; 614-486-9452, ext. 309) to arrange a meeting. Visit <a href="http://music.saintmarkscolumbus.org">http://music.saintmarkscolumbus.org</a> for more information.

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## Outreach Collections Coming Up

#### School Supply Drive July 11- August 15



We know it seems like school just let out, but school will be starting again before you know it. We are working with Huy Elementary of the Columbus City Schools to provide the teachers with school supplies to share with their students.

Huy Elementary is in the Linden area, is an inclusive school and serves a large number of hearing impaired students. Our contact at Huy is our own Laura Karl. Working with Laura last year, we were able to provide supplies in the fall and then again mid-year when stock was running low. We'd like to do that again. So as those school supply sales start, please purchase a bag of them to share with Huy. A basket will be in the Parish Hall from July 11 through Aug. 15, but supplies are welcome any time.

Items needed include:

- Crayons
- Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Dry erase markers
- Spiral Notebooks
- Notebook paper
- Pocket Folders

stickers.

 craft supplies like pipe cleaners, construction paper, bingo dotters and

### Soap of all Sorts Collection -September



NNEMAP, the Open Shelter and Star House are always in need of soap of all sorts. During September, the Outreach Ministry will be holding a soap collection.

That includes bar soap, hand soap, dish soap, laundry soap, hair soap (shampoo) or any other kind of soap you can imagine. Plan ahead and buy soap on sale. Sample size bottles are welcome as they work really well for the homeless shelters. Collection bins will be in the parish hall.



#### Layette Ministry, Oct. 10th

Currently, the Layette Ministry has been working with the Vinton County Help Me Grow and WIC programs to identify the mothers in need of assistance. Occasionally, they also receive a name tucked into the office door of someone needing a little help. The success of the Layette Ministry has brought about another request for assistance. Hopewll Health of McArthur has asked if they could begin referring some of their patients to the Layette Ministry for assistance. Trinity Episcopal is willing, but needs the help of Saint Mark's to be able to fill the requests for the layette bags.

To that end, on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, following the 10:30 a.m. service, we will be hosting a shower for the Layette Ministry. Last time we held a shower, the congregation of Saint Marks was extremely generous. The Outreach Ministry hopes we can count on you again to support the Layette Ministry. So, start stocking up on diapers, wipes, baby clothing, baby blankets, baby bedding, books and other baby items.



## Labor Neighbor Day Bake Sale Is On

The Upper Arlington Arts Festival is on again this year, so Saint Mark's will be holding its Annual Labor Neighbor Day Bake Sale to Prevent Hunger. Start watching for the bulletin inserts asking for volunteers to bake, set up and staff this Saint Mark's community event. And, start thinking about what you would like to bake. If anyone is interested in being on the Bake Sale Committee, you would be most welcome (in fact, we could really use you). If interested, contact Julia Johnson Davis at 614-397-4650.

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Freedom held a family celebration picnic for the current CATCH Court participants, graduates of the program and their families. Both Judge Herbert and Judge

Thomas attended in support of the women. Saint Mark's was happy to support this function by providing the soft drinks as well as tables and chairs. We also assisted with set up, serving and clean up. It was a fun day for all.

Also last month, a group from Saint Mark's went for lunch at Freedom's new café during which they were given a tour of Freedom's new building. The basement in where the catering operation is located. On the main floor are the café and the kitchens. Upstairs is the survivor resource center including offices and space for the women to receive services and take courses. It is an open space designed to allow the women to feel comfortable. This new facility will allow them to employ twice as many survivors. After having six homes over ten years, it is wonderful that Freedom has been able to take this next step of having its own facility.

#### Why do we support Freedom a la Cart?

Freedom believes that women who've been exploited through the commercial sex industry should be empowered to gain freedom through personal and economic independence. Freedom is a safe place of restoration where survivors can heal, learn and grow as they prepare for sustainable employment in our community.

The Challenge: Human trafficking has strong roots in Central Ohio. An Ohio study on human trafficking estimated that of those American youth born in Ohio, 2879 are at risk for sex trafficking and another 1078 youth have been trafficked into the sex trade industry over the course of a year. Of individuals charged in Franklin County with prostitution, loitering or solicitation, over 92% are identified as victims of human sex trafficking- first trafficked for sex at the average age of 13 through force, fraud, or coercion. Women who escape this life of modern day slavery continue to suffer the effects of extensive trauma, sexual abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, arrested development, homelessness and poverty.

#### Freedom a la Cart's Impact:

Over the last five years, 80 survivors have been trained in the Work Force Development Program, of those 83% have not been arrested since participating in the program. Freedoms's butterfly program fills a gap for human trafficking survivors in recovery by offering a peer community of long term support with resources and tools for establishing lives of stability and self-sufficiency. Research shows community benefits of peer-based support including savings in health care, improved social functioning, improved family relationships, improved quality of life, increased employment, reduced substance use, reduced depression and demoralization, and improved chances at long term recovery. Butterfly participants gain access to impact services such as employment coaching, life skills workshops, peer-to-peer support meetings, educational mentors and more. As of this year Freedom has 145 survivors in the butterfly program; 63% of the women are living independently; 66% have a current driver's license; 62% are employed; 77% do not receive financial assistance and 82% do not receive social security assistance.

"I was a prostitute for 15 years. Freedom gave me an opportunity to redeem myself and gave me back my self worth and a purpose. Freedom means having purpose, having a place where I feel I belong, and loving me so I can love myself. I've learned how to have a good work ethic and be a team player".

#### How to support Freedom a la Cart

Are you willing to help support Freedom by ordering meals at home? The chef prepared meals are delivered to your door once a week, and can be ready to serve within 30 minutes. Parishioners who have tried this service highly recommend it. They indicate they have tried new dishes and found the meals to be delicious. Meals are \$25 for two or \$50 for four. To order email <a href="mailto:athome@freedomalacart.org">athome@freedomalacart.org</a> or call 614-992-3252.

Or, if you're ready to get out of the house, try the Café at 123 East Spring Street. While you are there, look for the Saint Mark's spoon on the wall. The Café and Bakery is open Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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For the last few months, Saint Mark's has been taking lunch to the women on the second Thursday of the month. Due to the pandemic, the lunches have been bagged at Saint Mark's and then taken to the

women at Goodale Park. Starting in July, they will be moving back into the Courthouse and we will be serving lunch there. We need volunteers to help us prepare, transport and/or serve food. Anyone who might be interested in helping with this project should contact Pat lams or Barb Keyes. Your participation in some way, either each month or just occasionally would be appreciated. Attending court is always a learning experience, that will help you appreciate all that you have.



More than 3,000 Central Ohio youth, ages 14-24, experience homelessness in a year's time.

So far this year, Star House has served 373 individuals and, in some cases, their small children at their drop-in center with 7,788 visits. Star House's drop-in center guests are provided access to food, clothing, hygiene items, laundry facilities, showers and a safe place to be. Beyond basic needs, their clinical team provided therapy and case management, and partner agencies provide on-site and community-based access to stabilizing resources, such as housing, transportation, employment, education, addiction services, legal aid, government benefits, ID cards and health care through their partners Nationwide Children's Hospital and PrimaryOne Health. In addition, 54 of 62 apartments have been filled at Carol Stewart Village—Star House Finance Fund's affordable. supportive neighborhood for youth, ages 18 to 25.

Star House Urgent Needs (other than money):

- Natural hair care products
- Conditioner (travel size)
- Athletic shorts
- Biker shorts
- Sunblock (travel size)
- Aloe Vera/after-sun care (travel size, if available)

These items can be donated directly from Amazon or if you would like to donate any of these items through Saint Marks, place them in the donation box in the parish hall and we will get them to Star House.



#### STREET CHURCH THANK YOU

Saint Mark's Outreach Ministry provided food for the St. John's Street Church lunch on May 30. Thanks to Anice Ellis (for purchasing the turkey and cheese for the sandwiches) and to Pam Thurston who provided water and also helped to serve the bagged lunch at Broad and Central. The 90 lunches that were prepared fed the Street Church congregation as well as some other members of the homeless community in Franklinton.

Our next commitment to provide lunches for Street Church is Aug. 29. Anyone who would like to participate by shopping, preparing and/or serving at that meal, should contact Roberta Morton. <a href="mailto:notvmorton@gmail.com/614-268-7021">notvmorton@gmail.com/614-268-7021</a>

#### **OUTREACH MEETINGS**

Starting in August, the Outreach Ministry will be going back to its normal schedule for meetings. The meetings will be held in the Canterbury Center on the second Sunday of the month following the 10:30 a.m. service. Everyone is welcome. So grab a cup of coffee and join us.



We will roll out the red carpet for new members, but you can also just pop in, without obligation, to see if you would like to participate in outreach.

Ideas for new projects are welcome as well. Please feel free to bring ideas to either of the Outreach Co-chairs, Leslie Winters or Bill Karl. If you would like to get on the Outreach agenda, email Leslie Winters at <a href="mailto:mslesliewinters@gmail.com">mslesliewinters@gmail.com</a>. Remember what Rev. Chris told us, don't wait to be asked!

### Saint Mark's Migration Ministries

It takes a village.....

Imagine a family of six (mother, father, four children) crossing the desert from southwestern Mexico to Nogales, Arizona to escape <u>targeted personal violence and persecution</u>. When they arrived at the southern U.S. border, they requested asylum and were told to stay in Mexico while their case was considered. After one and a half years of living in extreme conditions of poverty and continued violence their number was finally called, and they were allowed to present their case to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). After such a hearing and receiving approval to proceed, they were transported to a temporary "holding" shelter while a sponsor was verified. Then they were released to that sponsor and given permission to pursue asylum.

Continue to imagine they do not speak English, they had to flee their homeland out of fear, they had little money and no belongings, they had only the clothes they were wearing, and no transportation or housing. Because our immigration system does not allow them to work in the United States until a work permit can be granted (after six months from the date of their arrival), they have no means of providing for their family either.

Through our Christian call to welcome the stranger in our midst, Saint Mark's has been presented with the opportunity to welcome such a family who arrived in Columbus in early June. With guidance and support from our National Episcopal Church office and while working alongside their sponsor, we have assisted them by procuring legal representation and registering them at a food pantry (NNEMAP). Currently, the most immediate needs are housing, utility support and transportation (they have a financial sponsor to pay for their housing until they are allowed to work). Once housing is obtained, they will have many additional needs, including furnishings and supplies. Always, as a caution, we remind ourselves that there is no guarantee that they will be able to stay in the United States. Even though they are doing everything legally and properly, their fate resides with the court system. In the meantime, our Migration Committee is considering how we, as a parish, might best serve them so that they can succeed and become independent.

Please contact Joyce Acton (614-560-9219, <a href="actongroup@gmail.com">actongroup@gmail.com</a>), or Pat Iams (614-582-5738, <a href="PatI51@aol.com">PatI51@aol.com</a>), if you have questions or want to participate with us. If you speak Spanish, that would be extremely helpful with our new family.

Starting on July 25 we will meet in person following the 10:30 a.m. service in the Canterbury Room, and then on the 4th Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome to join us!

#### **Our Mission:**

Saint Mark's Migration Ministries welcomes the stranger in our midst.

- support refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants
  - serve, engage, learn, and educate

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#### BE A FLOWER PATRON

If you are enjoying the beautiful altar flowers and the outside planters you can be a part of the on going support for funding. The flower guild relies on parishioner's generosity to fund both altar flowers, outside plantings and table flowers for special occasions. If you are interested in giving a donation for weekly altar flowers please contact Diane Hartney (614-486-0710) to arrange your week. If you are interested in funding outside and special occasion flowers please go to the website under the flower guild to make a donation. Thank you!



#### STEPHEN MINISTRY

This is just a reminder that our church has been blessed to have a Stephen Ministry program. Our Stephen Ministers have been through 50 hours of training in "listening and caring" and they are here to provide regular confidential meetings if you are experiencing long or short term difficulties of health, loneliness, job loss or change, grief or just isolation and reentry difficulties from the pandemic.

Please do not hesitate to talk with Chris Thompson (our interim priest) at the church or one of our Stephen Leaders, Pat Barton (614-457-8055), Dianne Silliman (614-581-8599), Michele Johnson (614-406-2233), or any one of our Stephen Ministers if you know someone or if you yourself are going through a difficult time. Even your inquiry will be kept confidential.

This has been such a difficult year for so many of us in the church and though we are beginning to see the end, our lives have been changed. God is with us to answer our prayers. The Stephen Ministers just walk with you through difficult situations.



#### **Church Language In Action**

While walking our dog Lucy recently, I met a young man doing yardwork—heavy-duty yard work. We chatted for a few minutes. As we were heading our separate ways, he said to me: "Have a blessed day."

My first impulse was to respond: "And also with you." But that didn't make sense to me at the time.

Nor did: "Thank you."

I managed to come up with: "Peace be with you."

As I continued my walk with Lucy, I began to feel happy, content and at peace. I did give thanks for the prayer book. And I hope to see the young man again.

If you have a God Moment that you would like to share, please contact Jim Keyes, jimkeyes I 7@gmail.com.

#### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER



We offer condolences to the family of: Barbara Mayr, who passed away on June 10th at the age of 72.

PARISH RELATED NEWS reprises the tradition at Saint Mark's to share important information that may be of interest to members of the parish. If you know of the birth or marriage of someone related to the parish (but not a member as recorded in the parish register), a job change, retirement, achievement, student news, etc, we invite you to share it with us (and with the permission of the individuals involved, of course!) so we may pass along the good news. Information may be sent to Robbie Hurley at hurley.roberta@yahoo.com or to the Parish Office.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH FORMATION

## Giving Thanks for Summer!



The 8 a.m. outdoor Holy Eucharist service.





Liz Richmond, Anice Ellis, Dot Yeager, and Gloria Wylie at the July 4th 10:30 a.m. service.

## JULY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	I	2	3
				6:15 p.m. AA 8 p.m. AA	8 p.m. AA	<b>6:30 p.m.</b> Supper Group**
Independence Day Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, In Person*, Outdoors 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, In Person*, Indoors 8 p.m. AA	5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group	9:30 a.m. Al-Anon  1:15 p.m. Clergy Lectionary Study  3 p.m. Staff Meeting 3 p.m. Women of Saint Mark's **  7 p.m. Vestry Meeting	7 7:45 p.m. The Marksmen**	5:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting 6:15 p.m. AA 8 p.m. AA	Office Manager Vacation (limited office hours)  8 p.m. AA	10
Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, In Person*, Outdoors 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, In Person*, Indoors 8 p.m. AA	Office Manager Vacation (limited office hours)  5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group	Office Manager Vacation (limited office hours)  9:30 a.m. Al-Anon  1:15 p.m. Clergy Lectionary Study  3 p.m. Staff Meeting 3 p.m. Women of Saint Mark's ***	Office Manager Vacation (limited office hours)  Ip.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting  7:45 p.m. The Marksmen***	Office Manager Vacation (limited office hours) 6:15 p.m. AA 8 p.m. AA	Office Manager Vacation (limited office hours) 8 p.m. AA	17
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Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, In Person*, Outdoors 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, In Person*, Indoors 11:30 a.m. Migration Ministry Meeting**  8 p.m. AA	5 p.m. Deadline for August Epistle 5:30 p.m. AA - Men's Group	9:30 a.m. Al-Anon  1:15 p.m. Clergy Lectionary Study  3 p.m. Staff Meeting 3 p.m. Women of Saint Mark's **	7:45 p.m. The Marksmen**	6:15 p.m. AA 8 p.m. AA	30 8 p.m. AA	31

<sup>\*</sup> Please visit the <u>Saint Mark's website</u> for the current status of indoor gathering and distancing information.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Zoom meeting links can be found on the Parish Calendar.

#### SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Part of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, Saint Mark's held its first worship service in 1951 in a converted Methodist church in Grandview. Ground was broken in 1953 for the Parish Hall (now the Education Building) where services were held until the current Nave and Sanctuary was completed in 1958. Office space in an adjacent building was purchased in 1989. Major renovations of the entire facility occurred in 2004 and 2008 SAINT MARK'S creating a campus today that empowers Christ's ministry within and beyond our parish.

#### SAINT MARK'S VESTRY MEMBERS' PHONE NUMBERS

Mark Drew, Senior Warden – 614-301-2675 Leslie Winters, Junior Warden - 614-327-6337 Cheryl Boop - 706-614-1682 Rachel Dwyer-Markwardt, Formation—614-505-6792 Anice Ellis, Search Committee Liaison – 614-563-6984 Judith Grant, Parish Life - 614-956-6844 Jay lams, Member Connection - 614-271-0849 Julia Johnson-Davis - 614-397-4650 Marilyn Karl, Member Connection – 614-562-1942 Bill Mayr, Communications - 614-537-0045 Irina Reed, Formation - 330-990-6593 Roman Skoracki - 614-583-8801 Sam Slee - 614-565-6179 Phil Glandon, Treasurer - 614-486-5806 Barbara Hyre, Clerk - 614-488-1567

#### SAINT MARK'S STAFF

#### The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson, Transitional Priest-in-Charge

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