

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

THE REV. DR. CATHY L. DEATS, RECTOR

OCTOBER 2012

S. I. McMillen, in his book None of These

Diseases, tells a story of a young woman who



wanted to go to college. Her heart sank when she read the question on the application blank that asked, "Are you a leader?" Being both honest and conscientious, she

wrote, "No," and returned the

application, expecting the worst. To her surprise, she received this letter from the college: "Dear Applicant: A study of the application forms reveals that this year our college will have 1,452 new leaders. We are accepting you because we feel it is imperative that they have at least one follower."

Mark tells about a time when Jesus confronts his disciples about their argument over who among them was the greatest. He made a statement and then gave an example.

The statement was, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." And for the example, Jesus called over a child who lived in that house, took the child in his arms, and said, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

It is a pretty clear statement, and as with most of Jesus' examples, there is more to it than meets the eye. In that culture, children were essentially non-persons. They were left with the women, who themselves were considered inferior to men, but children were even further down the social ladder.

Jesus wanted to make a point: God viewed greatness not based on what the culture said was important, but by welcoming those on the bottom rungs of the ladder or those who aren't even on the ladder at all.

"Greatness" is a word based on measurement. The Greek word translated "greatest" in the text means "more." In our usual way of thinking, a person can be designated great only if he or she excels in some way beyond others, is *more* than others.

For us to be called great would mean that there are others who do not measure *up* to our status or achievement, and who are therefore *less* than we are. Jesus was not taking issue with the idea of measurement to determine greatness; he was simply saying that *the disciples were measuring in the wrong direction*. True greatness is not from how far we rise *above* others in status or fame or achievement, but in how far we are willing *to go* in including and caring for and being with the least and the lowest in his name.

And then Jesus ties the word "greatness" to the word "welcome." We are not only to see greatness in a different way, but we are to seek out and include and invite those who have no power or who have nothing we need or can use. It is one thing to welcome others from a distance, to say as the Episcopal Church does, "All are welcome." It is quite another to give of ourselves.

There was once a 10-year-old who came home one day from school saying that his class was collecting canned goods to give to the needy, and he wanted to know if he could take some cans from the family's pantry. His mother told him to help himself, so he started setting out cans of beets, peas, and spinach — all things he didn't care for himself. When his mom went over and added SpaghettiOs to the pile, however, he objected. He *liked* SpaghettiOs and didn't want to part with those. His mother explained to him something about what it means to be hospitable — accepting that the needs of others are as important as our own needs and offering others what we ourselves value.

The welcome we extend to the poor, the powerless, the children, and those who are different from us is the welcome we extend to Jesus himself. In a retreat house I stayed in some years ago, at the end of our stay, we were given linens and asked to remake the bed for the next person. There was a sign on the bed table

Continued Page (2)

Rector...Continued from page (1)

which read, "Please make up the bed as if Jesus were to sleep here tonight."

There are many ways to measure greatness. The openness of our doors and the openness will be our measure.

From the Wardens

In my 24-year career in human services management I've always been intrigued by how particular meetings within an organization become ones that staff choose not to miss. Believe me, social workers and human service professionals can find plenty of valid reasons why not too attend a particular meeting no matter how much management and supervisors believe they should attend. But some meetings provide so much value to staff's day-to-day work that they can think of no other place to BUT at that particular meeting. These meetings become a strong part of the organization's culture. They benefit everyone because of the staff's buy- in. Staff actually wants to be there.

I have to admit that for many years when I first joined St James', Sunday worship was something I had no problem missing. The weekend schedule and Sunday in particular meant more to me than what happened on Sunday morning.

I now feel differently and find that making sure I attend worship is not only important but a part of me. If we are out-of town or have other commitments, I think about and truly miss worship. If we are intown, there is simply no other place I'd rather be. In fact, ensuring I'm at St. James' for worship Sunday mornings, over time, has taken priority like never before. I think I can credit my own spiritual maturation for this and I've come to realize that the rest of the weekend always seems to fall into place.

Dave Lacouture

Vestry Hi-Lites From the September Meeting

• The Vestry will send representation to the Believe Out Loud Workshop where we will learn how to affirm our welcome of the LBGT community. St. James' was a leader in the Oasis ministry from its beginning in the Diocese, and we will explore how to join other churches and denominations in making our welcome known. Dave Handville will attend with Cathy Deats on November 10.

- last year and we are in need of additional teachers. There will be an orientation to Sunday School for everyone interested in learning about our curriculum, Godly Play, and exploring how to support our children.
- Leadership discussion included processing of a very successful Open House / Open Doors and plans for "got baptism?" Our three committees

Stewardship

Stewardship is a responsibility to manage what we have been given by God, and to take care of those things that will pass from us to other generations.

We, at St. James', practice Stewardship all year long through the many things we do and the many lives we touch. Just a few examples: taking Communion to those who are unable to attend Church services, painting and maintaining our Church buildings, doing research to lower our utility bills, participating in the Backpack Program, going to Appalachia to assist folks with home repairs, and on and on.

However, this is a special time of year when we ask you, our St. James' family to make a formal commitment of your time, talents and treasures so that our leaders can plan for the coming year. Sunday, October 21st is Stewardship Sunday. Vestry member Carol Novrit will be our lay preacher to tell us about her stewardship journey.

You will also receive printed information to help you discover how the leaders of St. James' practice stewardship of the gifts God gives this community, especially the gifts you share with us. Please think about how you will share your time, talents and treasures

Janice Cipriani

K

got baptism?

if not, call (908) 852.3968 to get it

Perhaps you sense that you are being called to a deeper life with God and a community of faith; perhaps you have a child who has not been baptized, and you are seeking a Christian community in which to raise that child; wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are invited to receive the sacrament of Baptism in our community, where we live out our baptismal promises with faith and joy, gaining support and strength from each other.

At St. James' Episcopal Church, the sacrament of Holy Baptism will be offered to all those who desire it and have been prepared. Baptism is the outward and visible sign in which a person is connected with God in a special relationship we call a covenant. The Episcopal Church teaches that all people may enter into this relationship and begin a lifelong journey to live into the Christian life.

I want to be baptized. What's next?

- request baptism from St. James', via the church office (908) 852-3968, <u>stjames214@comcast.net</u> or contact with the Rector, Cathy Deats, (908) 500-2463, <u>cathydeats@comcast.net</u>
- attend the Baptism Preparation Saturday, October 27th from 10 AM to 12 PM at St. James'
- begin to select sponsor(s) for the person to be baptized, those to stand with and support the person on their Christian journey
- The Baptism service is Sunday, November 4, at 10 AM at St. James'

For Weekly Announcements and what's happening at St. James' visit our webpage:
stjameshackettstown.org

Check out the new calendar!
Sign up for email news!

Lay Eucharistic Ministry

The celebration of Holy Communion is the focus of our worship twice every Sunday morning, and most Chapel services on Thursday evenings. For those unable to come to St. James', Lay Eucharistic Visitors bring the bread and wine fresh from our table, the altar, to homes and hospital every week. This ministry has been revitalized in the past several months and is thriving. We are extending our visits to more people, and if you know of someone who would like such a visit, let us know in the church office, and we will approach the person.

Our faithful visitors are Linda Ayres, Paul Bartkus, Meg Critchley, and Barbara White. All the clergy are also Eucharistic visitors (Cathy, Rod and Sheila). Our next meeting of LEVs is Saturday, October 20th at 10 AM. Please consider joining us if you want to know more.

This ministry is one of the closest to my heart in my work as your priest; it is a feeding on so many levels for both the person receiving and the person giving.

Cathy +

Healing Services

St. Luke the Physician is the evangelist and healer who gave us the most familiar stories of healing in the gospels. We honor him and lift up the healing ministries among us as we gather to claim God's promise of health and wholeness with the laying on of hands and anointing. These are not simply ancient traditions of the church, but part of the fabric of being human: our senses are involved as we approach God in prayer. We hear the vocalized prayer, feel the touch of hands, catch the fragrance of the oil and sense the spirit of God in our midst.

The Laying on of Hands for Healing will be offered at both the 8 AM and 10 AM services on Sunday, October 14th. Consider those you know who may not be church-goers; think about inviting them to this very special service. Our Prayer Ministry members will be on hand at both services to pray individually with people.



Blessing of the Creatures

The Feast of St. Francis (October 4) is the time we bless the creatures God has given us to care for, and who care for us. St. James' will celebrate the Blessing of the Creatures on Sunday, October 7 at 4 PM in the Great Hall. Please bring donations for our local pet shelters: old towels, dog and cat food, laundry detergent and pet toys.

Plans are also under way to extend Blessing of the Creatures to local pet shelters or pet events during October. Please watch your bulletin or the website for more info.

Music Notes

New Members

Wow! I haven't had a "new members" section since January 2012! Now, I'd like to welcome new choir members Stella & Kayode Oyegbites! They just joined in late September and will be with us whenever they can be! What more can we ask? We are so glad to have them!

Now, that doesn't mean we don't want more members. Choirs really operate under a "the more, the merrier" philosophy! So, please, think about joining us, too!

Sunday mornings at 8:30am in the Mitcham House! There's a chair with a hymnal on it just for YOU!

Other Sr. Choir News – HymnFest Choir

If you feel you can't make a commitment to the "regular" choir, perhaps you'd consider joining us as part of an expanded choir to sing at the 2nd Annual HymnFest on Sunday evening, November 18, at 6:30pm. The event will be held at Gethsemane Lutheran Church here in Hackettstown. We would like to participate this year as a singing choir in addition to our Bell Choir but could really use a few more voices to round us out! We will be practicing our piece as part of our regular rehearsals but later in the rehearsal time – say around 9am. So, if you'd like to join us for the Hymn Fest, please let me know, or just show up at 9am starting Sunday, October 7!

This same approach applies to other upcoming events like Advent Lessons and Carols, sung during a regular Sunday morning service during Advent, and Christmas Eve services. Rehearsing of that music will start later in October. If you are interested in singing in one or both of those, please let me know so I can let you know when we begin rehearsing that music!

Birthday Hymns

We're off to a slow start with the Birthday Hymns. I only have about 10, so far. Still plenty of time for you to get your selection in! Use the forms found inside your bulletin or email me directly at plaura@verizon.net.

Youth Choir

Once again we will hold rehearsals for our Youth Choir during Sunday School with a goal of performing an Advent/Christmas piece at the annual Story of the Nativity through the Arts program at the Port Morris United Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 5pm, and repeating that piece at our own Christmas Eve service at 4:30pm. Rehearsals started on September 30th so all Sunday School members are learning the song now. Please mark your calendars with these two dates so we can have as many singer/ signers as possible:

Sunday, Dec. 2, arrive at Port Morris at 4:15pm. Monday, Dec. 24, arrive at St James at 4pm.

Lift your hearts up to the Lord.....with music!

Pam Laura

The *Triumph of the Tower - Winds of Change* Concert scheduled for October 28th has been cancelled.

Rest assured the work that went into this effort will be transformed into another way to celebrate St. James!



St. James' Episcopal Church Hackettstown

BELL CHOIR "NOTES"

The St. James' Multi-Generational Bell Choir began rehearsals on Sunday, September 9. The choir happily welcomed two new young ringers, Amelia Vitalos and William Fleck. We look forward to having them in our group for many, many years.

At this time the choir will be participating in the following:

- November 18 at 7 PM Hackettstown Hymn Sing at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.
- December 2 at 5 PM Christmas Through the Arts Port Morris United Methodist
- December 16 at 5 PM Lessons and Carols St. Luke's, Montclair

The choir is preparing some very beautiful music for the next few months for these events. Please consider attending these events and supporting the hardworking members of the St. James Bell Choir.

Louise Olshan

A Few Words about Hymn Singing

I recently read two articles pertaining to singing in the church.

One was the September newsletter for *Sing For* Jov, a radio program devoted to church music produced by St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. The article was written by Pastor Bruce Benson, host of the program. "Hymns out of date? Hardly. News reports about tragedies – whether floods, fires, storms, or gunfire – are almost certain at some point to include a picture of mourners and survivors gathered together singing hymns. Hymns are never far away during times of national relief or national grief." Pastor Benson goes on to say "People like to sing; people like to sing songs that are meaningful. songs that reach their souls, that touch them in more than a superficial way, and there just doesn't seem to be a musical style or genre that fits the bill quite like a good old fashioned hymn." We all have our favorites. Be sure to share these as Pam Laura has requested. Hopefully our sharing of hymns will be a source of joy and comfort for all of us.

The other article was by Peter W. Marty in the September issue of *The Lutheran*. His focus was on congregational singing. Why do we sing in church? "We sing, in part, because no sound is more sublime than the human voice. Some people sing because they are happy; others are happy because they sing. Singing breaks down boundaries and creates amazing solidarity. If diverse people can eagerly rise from their stadium seats during the seventh inning stretch to sing for the concept of baseball, one might think that standing in another venue to sing for the reality of God carries even more delight. Songs of faith often connect us with God more intimately than many sermons do." (Cathy, I am just quoting Pastor Marty.)

As organist, I cannot always sing along. Getting two hands and two feet onto the correct manuals, the correct keys and the correct foot pedals is sometimes enough to keep me busy without trying to read the words in a 5 or 6 verse hymn. But as I prepare to play hymns, I always read through the words to get the correct phrasing. The words of our hymns are such strong statements of our faith. Many contain passages from the Bible. Have you noticed how the words of a hymn may reflect one of the readings for that day? That does not happen by accident. Pam Laura and I use *The Episcopal Church Musicians Handbook* to select our music.

Pastor Marty's conclusion was that we should not worry about the quality of our singing, nor should we listen for the lovely voice of someone else. "The greater delight is in pleasing God through our unity of voice."

Let us all make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Through our singing, through our ringing, through our special musical offerings at the parish picnic or the "fifth Sunday of the month" musical changes.





Yarn Twisters



The Yarn Twisters will be meeting on **Saturday**, **October 13**th at **9:30 a.m**. to pack boxes of completed items to ship to SCI. If you are interested in attending a Yarn Twister session, either email me at frlbailey1@comcast.net or call me

at 908-684-3566 for dates. New patterns are available on the *Christmas at Sea* website ... www.seamenschurch.org - check them out!

The following items can be collected during the year. There is a blue plastic barrel in the Great Hall for donations. Thank you to those donating – the Barrel is quite full!

- Unscented, Hypoallergenic Hand Lotion (2-4 oz bottles)
- Sealed Packages of Holiday Sweets
- Books or Activities like Sudoku, word searches, or playing cards
- Facial Tissue
- Microwave Popcorn
- Chewing Gum
 Thank you,

Línda Míller

"I really want to learn more about the Bible, but where do I start?"

"I know the Bible stories, but what do they mean to me today?"

The answer to your curiosity and hunger to learn more about the Bible and your faith life might be in a group now forming at St. James': Disciples of Christ in Community - a new experience in Biblical study using a process of theological reflection where we ask the questions: so what? what does this mean to me? how does this show me how to live as a disciple? Classes will be held the first Tuesday of each month, beginning October 2nd, from 7 PM to 9 PM. Please contact Eileen Malejko [emalejko@comcast.net] for more information or to join DOCC. First class—In the Beginning: The Two Creation Stories (Genesis 1 & 2).

Ministry Scheduler Pro Goes Live at St. James'

The roll out of Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) has been accomplished, and even though I would have done things differently if I had it to do over again, it will make everyone's life easier once we all get accustomed to the program. Due to the short amount of time between the purchase of MSP and the time that I had to have a schedule together we had to skip a step and go right to finalizing a schedule.

But not to worry! If you cannot be available on one of your scheduled dates, just click "Request a Sub" next to that date and I will receive the request and process it. Then the program will send out an email to everybody in that Ministry asking for a volunteer to fill that date. When someone volunteers, they click on "Volunteer" next to that date and it will come back to me and automatically update the schedule.

It may seem like a lot to absorb and I know everyone will be patient as we get the first cycle under our belt. As with any new program, there are still a few bugs that need to be worked out. We will get them corrected as quickly as possible so that everybody will be able to enjoy the ease of the program. I am sure new volunteers will be on board when they hear about MSP!

Línda Ayres





Troop 416 Scouts John Jensen, Robert Kucharski, Brian Lake, Drew Lacouture, Hayden Lechner, Baron Markowitz, Justin Morris-Marano, Austin Stern, Patrick Williams, Jason Wolenski, and adult leaders Greg Lake and Tom Williams.

Independence Twp. Scouts return from 6,000-mile trip

INDEPENDENCE TWP. | Ten Scouts and two adult leaders from Independence Boy Scout Troop 416 traveled 6,000 miles in 28 days in a modified mini-bus throughout the western United States. In the midst of their trip, the Scouts took a 12day, 90-mile backpack-only trek through the mountainous wilderness of the Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico.

Called "a trip of lifetime" by Troop 416 Scoutmaster Tom Williams, the monthlong excursion was the culmination of months of mental, physical and logistical preparation and fundraising.

The group of Scouts, referred in Philmont Scout lingo as a "crew," consisted of Troop 416 Scouts John Jensen, Robert Kucharski, Brian Lake, Drew Lacouture, Hayden Lechner, Baron Markowitz, Justin Morris-Marano, Austin Stern, Patrick Williams and Jason Wolenski, and adult leaders Greg Lake and Tom Williams.

Their first stop was West Virginia where

they were flooded out of their tents by a fierce thunderstorm. The next stops on their way to New Mexico included St. Louis, Topeka, Kan.; Iowa and Colorado Springs, Colo. While in Colorado, they cycled down from the 14,000-foot summit of Pike's Peak.

At Philmont, each crew member carried a backpack weighing between 30 to 40 pounds, which included their personal gear, tents, food, water and more. Each night, the crew set up camp and planned their strategy for the next day's hike. Since bears and other wildlife are plentiful in Philmont, the crew was required to suspend their food and personal hygiene items in "bear bags" hung high in the

After leaving Philmont, the crew traveled north to the Grand Canyon where they hiked down to the base of the canyon, camped for a night and hiked back up the steep switchbacks enduring extreme heat. This hike added 20 miles to the

crew's hiking total.

The crew traveled for the next nine days in their bus visiting Hoover Dam, Las Vegas, the Great Salt Lake, Snake River, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone National Park, the Continental Divide, Little Big Horn, Devils Tower and Mt. Rushmore.

On the return home to New Jersey, the crew traveled through Ohio where they spent a day at Cedar Point Amusement Park and another day at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum in Cleveland.

They returned having traveled through a total of 16 states. They took more than 3,300 photos that included landscapes, fun and adventure. They also returned with stories to tell family, friends and each other for a lifetime. For more information about the Troop 416 visit bsa416.org.

Drew Lacouture, Troop 416 reporter. supplied the information for this abbreviated version of this story.



St. James' has a Curate!

Parish Life News

cure, n., the spiritual and pastoral charge of a parish; the *cure* of souls

curate, n., *chiefly British*, a member of the clergy employed to assist a rector or vicar; any ecclesiastic entrusted with the cure of souls, as a parish priest.

St. James' has been blessed with a curate. As far as we can tell, he is the first curate this parish has had in its 150+ years of ministry. Rod Perez-Vega is no stranger to us, for he spent two years in supervised ministry here as a seminarian at General Theological Seminary. Through a generous gift from the Bishop's office, we will have Rod with us through June of 2013.

In addition to his full-time job as acting Core Trauma Chaplain at Lehigh

Valley Hospital, he will work at St. James' for ten hours per week. His responsibilities will include Youth Group, Education, Sunday Liturgy and "other duties as assigned"!

God willing and the people consenting, Rod will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on Saturday, December 15th at 10 AM here at St. James'.

We hope you will be there to celebrate Rod's many gifts and his

presence among us.
As far as we can tell, this is the first ordination to the priesthood in the history of St. James'.

How blessed we are! Cathy e at St. James'.
celebrate

Parish Life will meet on Wednesday,
October 10th at 7:30 PM in the Mitcham
House.

We are a group of people involved in working to make our liturgy truly "the work of the people." We plan the seasons of the church three times per year. The seasons for planning at this meeting are Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. We are also a coordinating body for the activities of the church, with liturgy as the foundation. Please come with ideas for these two special questions: (1) Epiphany - The Feast of the Epiphany, 12th night, is on Sunday this year (January 6). Think about how we can involve the community in our celebration.; and (2) Advent - please think about the themes of coming and getting ready, and how we can creatively communicate these themes through worship. New ideas and new people are always welcome to this lively group!

Life at St. James'





Committed to Worship and Building community







In Christ's Name











Sunday	Monday	OCT Tuesday	OCTOBER 2012 Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM BACKPACK VOLUNTEER RECEPTION	8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	2 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM DISCIPLES OF CHRIST IN COMMUNITY 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY	3 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service 7:30 PM Back Pack Meeting (After 7PM Chapel Service)	8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 6:00 PM EFM RETREAT	6 8:30 AM PAINTING OF THE CHURCH 9:00 AM EFM RETREAT
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM FAMILY BREAKFAST 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM BLESSING OF THE CREATURES	8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	9 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY	10 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM PARISH LIFE	8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service	12 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	9:00 AM MAINTENANCE 9:00 AM MAINTENANCE MORNING 9:30 AM YARN TWISTERS
14 FEAST OF ST. LUKE SERVICE OF HEALING 8AM & 10AM SERVICES 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Youth Group 11:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL ORIENTATION	15 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	16 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY	17 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:30 PM Special Events Committee Meeting	18 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service 7:30 PM VESTRY MEETING	19 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	20 10:00 AM EUCHARISTIC VISITORS meeting
Wise Stewards STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	22 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	23 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY	24 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	25 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service	26 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	CLASS (HURCH WAINTENANCE 9:00 AM MAINTENANCE MORNING 10:00 AM BAPTISM
28 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM HOLY BAPTISM 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Youth Group	29 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	30 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 10:00 AM Literacy Tutoring 7:00 PM EFM - EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY	31 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	1 All Saints Day 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center 7:00 PM Chapel Service	2 8:30 AM Joseph Quinlan Bereavement Center	ယ

ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

OCTOBER 2012

St. James' Staff & Vestry

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