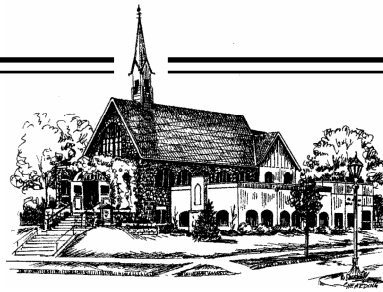

◆ Tidings ◆

from St. Matthew's

Vol. 10, Issue 8



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

November, 2005

From The Rector

Advent, which begins on November 27, is one of my favorite seasons of the church year. It is a season of hope, of expectant waiting. I think the year I most fully lived into Advent was the year I was pregnant with my son Luke. I waited nine long months for his birth, hopeful, excited, and a little scared. What would the child God was giving me be like? How would my life and my relationship with my husband change as a result of this child? What would God teach me through this child? Would he be like Dwight or me, or vastly different? I had no idea what the years ahead would bring, and this created a feeling of great excitement and anticipation.

This Advent I am excited and hopeful about our future together at St. Matthew's. The warm and welcoming spirit of this church encourages me, as do the many gifts of the people worshipping here. We have all the potential in the world, and the strong desire to grow. This is a time to reflect and be thankful both individually and as a community. One dimension of that reflection and thanksgiving is our stewardship of what God has first given us. We have all been blessed by God, and God's vision for our lives is that we grow by giving back a portion of what God has given us—time, talent and treasure. By the time you receive this issue of *Tidings* you should also have received a letter and pledge card from St. Matthew's Stewardship Committee. Please prayerfully consider how you will support God's work at St. Matthew's in the days ahead.

This Advent I strongly encourage you to participate in St. Matthew's offerings designed to help all of us enter Advent prayerfully and with hopeful expectation. On Saturday, Dec. 3, there will be a silent half-day retreat. Thanks to Lis Christenson and our gifted Godly play storytellers, the retreat will consist of three Godly Play Advent meditations followed by silent time for prayer, journaling, and reflection. "Wondering" questions will be handed out in advance to help guide participants' meditations. On the fourth Sunday in Advent, Dec. 18, our choir will lead us in a service of Lessons and Carols at the 10:30 service. It is different from a typical service of Lessons and Carols in that the music and readings focus on Advent themes.

In Advent you will notice some liturgical changes designed to help us enter the season in a contemplative, expectant, and hopeful spirit. The Eucharistic prayer will change from "A" to "B" and there will be a moment of silence after the sermon and before the Nicene Creed. The music accompanying the Gospel procession will change as well as the Sanctus and Prayers of the People. Finally, I will be using a Celtic blessing at the end of the service which goes as follows: *May the Lord encircle you, keeping hope within and despair without. May the Lord encircle you, keeping light near and darkness afar. May the Lord encircle you, keeping peace within and anxiety without. And may the Eternal Three, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be shielding you on every side.*

May God encircle you this Advent season, keeping light within, and filling you with hope and expectation of new birth.

Blair

Editor's Note: Please see the related article on the Silent Retreat on page 5.

Tidings Deadlines

Sunday, November 20

Sunday, December 18

Send articles to Katie Lowry:

khlowry@juno.com

People News

The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold
*Presiding Bishop of the
 Episcopal Church*
 The Rt. Rev. James L. Jelinek
Bishop of Minnesota

Vestry Members:

Mark Brown
Senior Warden
 Duke Addicks
Senior Warden Elect
 John Tillotson
Junior Warden
 Nancy Dietman
Youth Representative
 Nancy Alholm
 Ray Dietman
 Ferri Graham
 Mike López
 James Myster
 Bert Ranum
 Marian Stankovich
 Kathryn Grambsch
Clerk of the Vestry
 Rosa Uy
Treasurer
 Beatrice Garubanda
 Don Nevin
Diocesan Delegates

Ministry Positions:

Katie Lowry
Acolyte Leader
 Sue Nevin
Altar Guild
 Karen Pfeifle and Rosa Uy
Br. Lawrence Guild
 Marilyn Grantham
Chalice Bearer/LEM
Coordinator
 Joan Hershbell
Dinner Group Coordinator
 Abby Marier
Mission Outreach
 Kathryn Grambsch
Vergers
 Jet Paulu
Youth Ministry Chair

Staff:

The Rev. Blair Pogue
Rector
 J Michael Compton
Dir. Of Music Ministries
Office Manager
 Lis Christenson
*Coordinator of Children's
 Ministries*

Youth Coordinator
 Nigel Spottiswoode
Bookkeeper
 Ron Houde
Maintenance Service

Dear parishioners and friends of Saint Matthew's:

We were saddened by the death of Natalie Blume in mid-October. Natalie's son has decided that he does not want a funeral, and is taking her ashes back with him to California.

In order to remember Natalie, to grieve her loss, and to give thanks for her life, I will be incorporating special prayers on her behalf into the 8 am service on Sunday, Nov. 6. I will also talk about Natalie and her life in the context of my All Saints sermon. Please help spread word of this service, especially to friends of Natalie in the community, and keep Natalie's family and friends in your prayers.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Natalie, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Blair Pogue

Thank you from the Garubanda Family:

On behalf of the Garubanda family we would like to thank you for all the prayers and support everyone has blessed us with. Many people from the church, dear friends to Beatrice, came and with open arms helped us handle and arrange materials in our process before traveling. We are very grateful and are blessed to have been able to share the life of Beatrice with you. God bless you all.

The Garubandas

Parishioners Kirsten and Benjamin Johnson are the proud parents of Miles Oscar Johnson, born on September 27. Miles joins sister Zoe, age 3. Congratulations!

Remember to return your library items to the library mailbox in the office or on the table in the library! Thanks.

Junior Warden's Report

To All;

We had a wonderful fall clean-up on October 8. I give my sincerest thanks to everyone who came. We completed our entire list of projects and I think the church property is in great shape as winter approaches.

However...we are not looking forward to the projected increase in our heating bills this winter. We are trying through programming the thermostat to be practical when heating the church. This may be the year both at home and at church that you want an extra layer or perhaps a handsome sweater. Please know this will be a process which will change as needs dictate. I simply wanted to suggest we all dress accordingly as cooler temperatures are surely to come upon us.

As always, if you see property issues which need to be addressed, please contact me at 651-221-0373 or john.h.tillotson@smithbarney.com

Peace to you,
 John Tillotson

Tutoring Program Update

By Sue Nevin and Linda López

Beatrice Garubanda was the creator and founder of the St. Anthony Park Tutoring Program at our church many years ago. In those years, we have had many tutors and students involved, including the Garubanda children. All of the students who have graduated from high school have gone on to college. All of these high school graduates are either currently enrolled in college or have graduated from college.

This year, we have over a dozen students enrolled and about an equal number of adults involved as tutors, cooks (all cooks have a PhD!), and support staff. Beatrice's sudden death left us all stunned. However, the tutors immediately renewed their commitment to the program and several new tutors have joined us. For the near future, no major changes will be made to the program. Both the students and the adults need stability and continuity. For the time being, Sue Nevin is responsible for the Monday night session, and Linda López for Thursday nights. The Garubanda family expressed the desire to remain part of the program, and we are excited by their continued involvement.

"Life is short and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark journey with us. Oh, be swift to love, make haste to be kind." Henri-Frederic Amiel (1821-81), Swiss philosopher, poet.

2nd Annual African Dinner

Honoring the life and service of Beatrice Garubanda

Saturday, December 3, 2005, 6 pm

Site to be announced

Tickets: Adults \$15, Children \$5

To reserve tickets:
(651) 483-0381 or (651) 600-5729

Proceeds from this event will support The Blue House, a home for orphans in Kazo Parish, Uganda

2006 Youth Mission Trip

Ozark Gateway Workcamp, July 8 -16

In 2006, St. Matthew's is sponsoring a youth mission trip to Poplar Bluff, Missouri, from July 8 through July 16. St. Matthew's Youth Group has participated before in Group Workcamps and found it to be a rewarding and challenging experience. Anyone 12 years or older by July 8, or entering the 7th grade in the fall, is eligible to attend. At Group Workcamps, youth complete basic home repairs, painting and minor construction at no cost to elderly, disabled or disadvantaged residents. More information can be found at: www.groupworkcamps.com/2006/faqs.asp.

Ray Dietman will serve as the coordinator for the trip. We need to get our reservations in NOW to guarantee our spots, which fill up quickly. The first 10 individuals to sign up before November 1 with the \$50 registration fee will get a six pack of soda or water of their choice on the trip (Dietman children NOT eligible). If for any reason the trip doesn't occur, that fee will be refunded. We also need one adult volunteer for every five youth going on the trip. Information on costs, fundraisers, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities will follow in future Tidings and on the website. Make checks payable to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church with a note designating Youth Mission Trip, and mail or deliver to Ray Dietman.

For more information:

Ray Dietman 651-642-9944 (h), 612-669-3040 (c) or ray.dietman@inginvestment.com.

Foodshelf Future Precarious

By Joan Hershbell

The coordinator of St. Philip's Foodshelf has appealed to us for money as well as food. The number of people served has grown from 30 to as many as 50 each week. They wait for the Foodshelf doors to open and then wait an hour or more for one bag of groceries. St. Philip's has even considered closing the Foodshelf because of lack of funds and will reconsider in November whether or not to stay open. Please help with this valuable ministry by remembering to bring food each week and/or including a separate check in the offering plate identified for the St. Philip's Foodshelf. We will send the checks in promptly and continue to deliver food at least once a month.

Guilds, Groups & Committees

Worship Committee at Work

By Jenny Bach

St. Matthew's Worship Committee met on October 1 to plan services for All Saints, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, and to work with our rector on new ways to enhance our worship services.

There will be a 10:00 am Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day. Advent Lessons and Carols will be offered at the 10:30 am service on Sunday, Dec. 18. Christmas Eve services will be at 4:00 pm with pageant, and at 10:30 pm, preceded by carols at 10:00. On Christmas Day we will have a single service at 10:00 am using Rite I.

As we move into the upcoming liturgical season, there will be some changes to our worship services. All readers, creed and prayer leaders will use the microphone at the lectern to ensure everyone in the congregation can hear. In Advent we will introduce use of a modern version of the Lord's Prayer, special petitions in the prayers of the people, and an emphasis on silent reflection before the beginning of the service and after the sermon.

Rev. Pogue appointed Kathryn Grambsch to be a Verger. The Verger is a logistical coordinator of the worship service, and all readers, chalice bearers and acolytes should check in with Kathryn in the Sacristy during the half-hour before services. Rev. Pogue would eventually like to have at least two parishioners serving as vergers.

All members of the congregation are welcome at worship committee meetings. The next meeting is Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9:30 am until 12:00 pm in the library to plan Epiphany, Lent and Holy Week. Beginning in 2006 the committee will have a regular schedule of meetings on the second Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November from 9:30 to 11:30 in the library.

Many Hands Make Light Work

The Altar Guild is seeking new recruits! This "service ministry" helps ensure the beauty and continuity of our worship service. If interested, please come to an introductory/training session on November 13 and November 20 following the 10:30 service, or call Sue Nevin at 651-644-0245.

Tribal Rug Sale Makes \$5,000 for P.E.C.A.

By Abby Marier

As a follow-up fundraiser to the Afghan Dinners previously held at St. Matthew's, the length and breadth of our undercroft were transformed into a real Mid-Eastern bazaar on Oct. 22, when 160 tribal rugs from Afghanistan and Iran were displayed at the P.E.C.A. (Partnership for the Education of Children in Afghanistan) Tribal Rug Sale. It was indeed a sight to behold! Beautiful rugs with intricate or simple designs; large and small rugs, and long, narrow runners in rich hues of reds, blues, green, white, brown...even orange! These rugs, from 1920-1960, were made of goat hair or horsehair. The rugs were provided by Ms. Tory Ferrey of Dellwood, who has over 600 rugs that she sells to raise money for charity. During the sale, Ms. Ferrey was on hand to give customers the background (tribal origin, materials used, meanings of images and symbolism) of each rug purchased.

Don and I took this opportunity to replace the very worn rug in the chapel with a newer prayer rug made by the Balouch Tribe of Afghanistan. The 1950's rug is hand-woven, knotted goat hair with embroidered "skirts" or edging. Symbols in the rug include the repeated design indicating the Tree of Life in the center, and the S design, or "serpent, or wisdom" repeated as a border pattern.

This & That

From November 20 to January 6, 2006, the Undercroft Gallery will exhibit works by Marjorie and Harold Alexander, long-time members of St. Matthew's Church and an artist/designer team of over 57 years. They have just retired as co-chairs of the art committee that plans the exhibitions in the gallery. The show will illustrate the variety of their creative production.

Marjorie, an internationally known papermaker and artist, was recently the President of the International Association of Paper Makers and Paper Artists (IAPMA) and has exhibited in major exhibitions throughout the world. One of her major works is on view at the Louvre It or Leave It Museum in the

(Continued on page 7)

Thanksgiving at St. Matthew's

This year we will be celebrating a Eucharist at 10 am on Thanksgiving Day. So, some of us who have gone out to eat together on Thanksgiving in the past thought it would be nice this year to get together for a meal at the church instead. Rosa Uy and Warren Poole have already volunteered to prepare the turkey!

If you are single, a couple or a family that would like to be a part of a larger "extended" family on Thanksgiving, you are invited to join us! Just bring some food to share: an appetizer, vegetable, salad, dessert, etc. And if you know of anyone else who will be alone on Thanksgiving - a friend, neighbor, or co-worker, - invite them, too, or better yet, bring them with you! This is an opportunity to demonstrate two things that we do very well at St. Matthew's - welcome newcomers and eat good food! We will probably be ready to eat about 12:30 or 1:00 pm.

If you are interested in participating in our first St. Matthew's Thanksgiving Dinner, please send me an email at grant005@umn.edu or call 651-644-5422. We need to know (1) your name, (2) how many people are coming, and (3) what kind of food you will bring to share. I will also post a sign-up sheet in the Undercroft on Sunday, Nov. 6.

Marilyn Grantham

Advent Half-day Silent Retreat

St. Matthew's will present an Advent Half-day Silent Retreat on Saturday, December 3, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm in the parish undercroft. This is a unique opportunity to pause during the busy holiday season to refresh ourselves in God's loving presence.

Our retreat will combine three Godly Play Advent stories, interspersed with quiet time for meditation, prayer or journaling. Opportunities for larger discussion among the group will also be offered. We hope this combination of learning time and silent reflection will deepen our appreciation of the Christmas season.

St. Matthew's has used a Godly Play approach to children's learning for the past 12 years. Godly Play uses a Montessori-based learning style that assumes children can and do experience God. Children and adults work together as co-learners, using storytelling, "wondering" time, music, art, prayer and even a "feast!" Bible stories are presented by teachers using small manipulative figures. Children are then en-

(Continued on page 7)

Safe Church Training

We need your help to accomplish a very important task in a short period of time. A new Safe Church Policy in the Diocese of Minnesota calls for all church employees and volunteers to take the new training course, *Safe Church Training*. This training is required for clergy, church personnel and volunteers, including teachers, nursery workers, youth directors, mentors, tutors, altar guild members, Brother Lawrence guild members, vestry members, lay Eucharistic ministers and visitors, and anyone who has keys to the church or grounds.

Many St. Matthew's parishioners volunteer in some capacity and will need training. *Safe Church Training* has two components: "Safeguarding God's Children" (child abuse prevention - 3 hours); and Adult Sexual Harassment Prevention (2 hours). The deadline from the Diocese for everyone to receive the appropriate training is December 31, 2005.

Most volunteers, including all who have keys to the building, are required to participate in the 3 hour portion of the Safe Church workshop. Some, however, are required to take both portions of the training. These include the clergy, church personnel, lay employees and volunteers who provide pastoral services (LEM's, LEV's and spiritual directors).

While we work to bring *Safe Church Training* to St. Matthew's, we want to alert you to other trainings happening in the metro area. This information is listed on the Diocesan web site (www.episcopalmn.org). If one of those sessions fits your schedule, please consider attending.

Please watch for additional information about St. Matthew's *Safe Church Training*. Information will be distributed as soon as dates and times are confirmed. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Alholm: 612-823-8451; jalholm@mn.rr.com.

Thank you for your help with this project.

Acolyte Training

Blair Pogue and Katie Lowry will be conducting an acolyte training and review session on Sunday November 6 at 4 pm for all new and veteran acolytes. We will not only discuss what to do as an acolyte, but why. Please plan on attending!

Education

Children's Education

By Lis Christenson

The Godly Play classes continue to hear and respond to stories from the Old Testament. In the Preschool-Kindergarten class, children are creating their own personal "desert boxes," as so many of the stories take place in the desert. You might want to visit the 1-2-3 room, for a tour of their "prayer corner," where it is possible to talk with God. The Faithweavers class has made their own labyrinth out of tape on the classroom floor. They are also creating a "burning bush" that reveals their personal stories in a "golden" hanging wall sculpture.

Preschool/Kindergarten

- Nov. 6 Exile and Return
- Nov. 13 How the Church Tells Time
- Nov. 20 Praying for Those We Love
- Nov. 27 Advent 1: The Prophets

Grades 1-2-3

- Nov. 6 Moses' Birth
- Nov. 13 Ten Best Ways to Live
- Nov. 20 Daniel
- Nov. 27 Advent 1: Prophecy of Isaiah

Faithweavers Grades 4-5-6

- Nov. 6 God Calls Samuel
- Nov. 13 David
- Nov. 20 Elijah and Elisha
- Nov. 27 Stories of Exile

If you have any questions or concerns about the Children's Education program, you can contact Lis at (651) 646-2969 or e-mail: lisdc@comcast.net

Adult Forum Calendar:

The Episcopal (Christian) Church in a changing Society.

- November 6th – Rector's Forum with Blair Pogue: Worship at St. Matthew's.
- November 13th – Bob and Susan Hardman speak on Elder Co-housing.
- November 20th – Mission in the Episcopal Church Today, Dwight Zscheile
- November 27th – Current Events and Christian reactions – panel discussion

The web site (www.stmatthewsmn.org) will contain the most up to date information on the Adult Forum.

Children's Choir Forming

A new children's choir will begin at St. Matthew's under the direction of Katie Lowry. All children ages 2-9 are welcome to join the fun!

The purpose of the choir is to celebrate the love of music in our youngest members. They will begin with very simple, enjoyable pieces that are familiar to their ears, including the Godly Play song, "Be Still and Know." Rehearsals will begin during the 3rd week of November (day and time to be announced), and continue during the 1st and 3rd weeks of each month. Eventually, the children will begin singing during the 10:30 service.

Any older children with an interest in music are most welcome to assist the younger learners. If you have further questions, please call Katie Lowry, 651-483-1472, or contact her at khlowry@juno.com.

All Saints Sunday: November 6

Dear Godly Play Parents,

Please join us for a celebration of the Saints on Sunday, November 6! This is a special day for the children of our parish, as they are invited to come dressed as their favorite saint. All children in costume are welcome to join in the processional at 10:20 am, and come forward to hear a children's sermon given by the Rev. Blair Pogue.

Have you ever wondered about St. Patrick, who drove the snakes out of Ireland or St. Matthew, the tax collector? Now is your chance to learn along with your children about these famous spiritual leaders. I have gathered a good selection of books on saints that you are welcome to use in our church library. Many of the children learned about saints last fall, as we studied St. Francis of Assisi, Joan of Arc and Mother Theresa. At that time, they also made their own saints' banners, which they are encouraged to bring on the 6th. We also have a few extra banners for your use.

I look forward to answering any questions or concerns as we prepare for this important festival day. We hope you will join in the celebration!

Lis Christenson
Director of Children's Learning

This & That *(Continued from page 4)*

Northstar Building in downtown Minneapolis. Trained as a painter, she has worked primarily in paper for the last twenty years. She recently served as a judge of the renowned Hanji (paper) Fashion Competition in Joenju, South Korea.

Harold (Alex), retired Professor of Design, University of Minnesota, has taught art and design in kindergarten through graduate school, including the H.H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden, Germany; Monmouth College in New Jersey, the University of Illinois and the University of Minnesota. He has designed interiors for several local restaurants and offices. He is the author of "Design: Criteria for Decisions" (Macmillan, 1976), "Scraps of Paper Lore, A Seductive History of Paper" (2000), and "St. Matthew's, A Holy Place" (2004).

Together they have served as consultants during the establishment of handcrafted papermaking centers in Kingston, Jamaica; Castries, St. Lucia (both in the Caribbean); Cairo, Egypt; and several locations in the United States. They have co-authored a book describing the making and marketing of handcrafted paper that has been published in both English and Arabic. Singularly or jointly they have participated in the founding of art galleries and regional exhibitions in New Jersey, Illinois and Minnesota.

An informal reception introducing the show will be held at 11:45 am, Sunday, November 20, 2005.

Advent Retreat *(Continued from page 5)*

couraged to share their feelings and reactions, prompted by "wondering questions." There are no right or wrong answers. Godly Play assumes a fundamental respect for each child, understanding and honoring their own innate spirituality.

During this retreat, we will present some of the Advent stories used in Godly Play. There are powerful messages and images for all of us in these stories. The same "wondering" questions will guide our meditations and discussions.

There is no charge for the retreat - we simply ask that you come and bring a friend! An RSVP to Lis Christenson at 651-645-3058 would be appreciated.

St. Matthew's Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers. We hope the brief descriptions will help bring each person closer to your hearts. To add a person to the prayer list, please contact Michael Compton.

- Rheatha Hix, sister-in-law of Birdie Carter, pancreatic cancer
- Jane Bose, sister of Grace Evans, stroke
- Dorothy Nevin, mother of Don Nevin, kidney cancer
- Paul Nerland, diabetes
- Gloria, friend of Rosa Uy, cancer
- David Brown, brother of Mark Brown, prostate cancer
- Yorani, friend of Mary Kelleher
- Irv Carr, father of Holley Kramer, seizure
- Sharon Quast, sister-in-law of Jet Paulu, multiple myeloma
- Jim, friend of Kathy Szczech, multiple myeloma
- Emily, friend of Noemí López, depression
- Dorothy Maxson, sister of Marilyn Grantham, partially paralyzed following surgery
- Neal Puffer, father of Jan Puffer
- Richard Dennis, thyroid cancer
- Merabu, mother of Beatrice Garubanda, blocked lymph system
- Betty Tarone, mother of Elaine Tarone, blood clot, depression
- Chuck Land, cancer of the esophagus
- Judy Sherman, sister of Diane Raff, stroke
- Hugh McTavish, cancer
- Linda, sister of Birdie Carter, cancer
- Tom, friend of Michael Compton

To keep our prayer list accurate, please inform the office of changes or corrections as soon as possible.

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 • Marilee Benkoski would like to thank all the people of St. Matthew's for their prayer. Thanks to you, she is cancer free.
 •.....



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Tidings from St. Matthew's is published monthly by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. This publication is mailed to parishioners and friends of the parish at no cost to them. It is also available on the St. Matthew's web site, www.stmatthewsmn.org, under "publications." If you would like to receive notification when each publication is available or if you would like to receive it as pdf file via e-mail, please send an e-mail to khlowry@juno.com.

St. Matthew's Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 9:30am - 3:00pm

Phone: (651) 645-3058
 Fax: (651) 645-0531
www.stmatthewsmn.org

The Office Manager is off on Mondays

The Rector is off on Fridays
 Pastoral Care Emergency phone:
 651-357-0945

Tidings from St. Matthew's

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
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 St. Paul, MN 55108

Please notify us if you wish to be removed from the mailing list. Thank you.

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Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
 Education hour 9:15 a. m.

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