



# The Cross and Flame

www.pinegroveumc.org

## TheCross andFlame

Is published monthly to inform members and friends of events and ministry at PGUMC.

### Church Staff

Neill Shaw, Pastor; Beverly Myers, Music Director; Peggy Williams, Secretary; Chris Nelson, Weekday School Director; Linda Houle, Director of Before and After School Program.

Contact Information  
Phone: 336-765-2569  
Fax: 336-765-0727

Church E-mail:  
pgumc113@bellsouth.net

Pastor's E-Mail:  
Pgumc\_pastor@bellsouth.net  
1130 Jonestown Road  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

## Isaiah 2:3

Many peoples will come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob.  
He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths."  
The law will go out from Zion,  
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Alison and her mother always seemed to be at odds, never quite getting along, not agreeing on much of anything. Every December, her mother would spend a day baking a variety of Christmas cookies. The family would enjoy some of the cookies while others were given to neighbors, coworkers, and friends from church.

Something prompted Alison to ask her mother if she could help with making the cookies. Her request caught her mother by surprise, but she readily agreed. It was just the two of them as they baked, decorated, and frosted cookies all afternoon. As they were hand rolling the cookies, mother and daughter began talking in a way they never had before. They talked without anyone interrupting them. Her mother told her stories of her own years growing up that Alison had never heard before, and Alison shared experiences with her friends at school.

That afternoon, Alison realized for the first time in her life how much she was like her mother. The two shared the same outlook as well as other personal characteristics. That day mother and daughter grew closer together. Both came away with a better understanding and appreciation of each other.

Advent is the time when we draw closer to God -- the way we do so is by spending time with God. The prophet Isaiah invites people to the "mountain of the Lord" where God "may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." This Advent come to know and appreciate your Lord and Savior more than ever before!

## The Journey Continues...

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## DECEMBER CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

### Each Sunday

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship

### Each Monday

7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts  
7:00 p.m. Disciple I Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Disciple II Bible Study

### Each Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Handbell practice  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## December 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

December 5 5:00 p.m. Live Nativity Practice  
December 6 6:00 p.m. Live Nativity  
December 7 11:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Program  
4:30 p.m. Advent Study  
6:00 p.m. Live Nativity  
December 8 6:00 p.m. Live Nativity  
December 9 6:00 p.m. Live Nativity  
December 10 6:00 p.m. Live Nativity  
December 11 6:00 p.m. Live Nativity  
December 12 4:00 p.m. UMYF Progressive Dinner/Lock-In  
December 14 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast  
11:00 a.m. Worship/Love Feast  
4:30 p.m. Caroling  
4:30 p.m. Advent Study  
December 17 7:00 p.m. Before and After School Committee  
December 18 7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting  
December 21 4:30 p.m. Advent Study  
7:00 p.m. Choir Cantata  
December 24 Office Closed  
December 25 Office Closed  
December 26 Office Closed  
December 28 4:30 p.m. Advent Study

## HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY



## Birthdays

December 1 Janice Fulk  
December 2 Joyce Long  
Julia Stoakley  
Susan Martin  
December 4 Richard Burnette  
Mary Council  
December 5 Andy Buchanan  
December 6 Brandon Weavil  
December 7 Nancy Hughes  
Marilyn James  
December 10 Taylor Day  
Chris Nelson  
December 11 Max Kimel  
December 15 Brenda Smith  
December 18 Kathleen Greenwood  
Rachel Sellars  
December 20 Ann Culberson  
Wesley Moran  
December 24 Jack Kimel  
Anne Sellars  
December 26 Bailey Weavil  
December 27 Ben Genevie  
S. R. Kimel  
E. L. Thomas  
December 29 Christi Council  
Joe Hughes, Jr.  
Todd Mercer  
December 30 Rebecca Meade  
December 31 Sandra Morgan

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**CAROLING**  
December 14, 2008  
4:30 p.m.



## Caroling

We will leave the church at 4:30 to go caroling and return to the church for refreshments.

It would be nice to have several groups to go different directions and all return to the church about 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. to enjoy a time of fellowship and food.

## Anniversaries This Month

December 18 Paul & Irene Berry  
Michael & Michele Roberts  
December 19 Jerry & Ruby West  
December 20 Ray & Jennie Jones  
December 27 Hoyt & Nancy Hughes  
December 28 Clyde & Margaret Holcomb  
Andy & Katie Buchanan

**OUR VOLUNTEERS****PROVIDE BREAD FOR 1ST TIME VISITORS**

December 7 Evelyn Groce  
 December 14 Peggy Sizemore  
 December 21 Dee Anne Fortescue  
 December 28 Lisa Hale

**VISIT FIRST TIME VISITORS**

December 7 Evelyn Groce and Peggy Williams  
 December 14 Charles and Dorothy Parker  
 December 21 Mary Council and Jean Darden  
 December 28 Bobby and Peggy Sizemore

**USHER SCHEDULE**

December 7 Roy Spach, Head Usher  
 Chris Council  
 Butch Hogue  
 Dee Fair  
 Brent Shutt  
 December 14 Tom Mahannah, Head Usher  
 Scott Pugh  
 Eddie Scott  
 John Fonda  
 Calvin Tanner  
 December 21 Roy Spach, Head Usher  
 Chris Council  
 Butch Hogue  
 Dee Fair  
 Brent Shutt  
 December 28 Tom Mahannah, Head Usher  
 Scott Pugh  
 Eddie Scott  
 John Fonda  
 Calvin Tanner

**SANCTUARY ASSIGNMENT**

December Richard and Shirley

**GREETERS FOR THE MONTH**

December Friendship Sunday School Class

**CRISIS CONTROL ITEM FOR THE MONTH**

December Potato Flakes

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

January December 29, 2008

**BASKETBALL SCHEDULE**

Lets support our guys playing Basketball. Almost all games are on Thursday and they are played in Calvary Baptist Church's new Gym.

December 11	6:45 p.m.	Peace Haven Baptist
January 8	6:45 p.m.	Rejects
January 15	7:45 p.m.	Sunrise UMC
January 22	8:45 p.m.	Tip Top Roofing
January 26	8:45 p.m.	Deacons
February 5	7:45 p.m.	Classics
February 12	6:45 p.m.	Peace Haven Baptist
February 26	6:45 p.m.	Rejects
March 5	7:45 p.m.	Sunrise UMC

**HOMECOMING, JULY 26, 2009**

Mark your calendar for July 25 and 26, 2009. Pine Grove will be celebrating their 150th anniversary. On Saturday there will be a big thank you to the community for supporting us for 150 years. On Sunday our bishop will be preaching and the choir has commissioned an anthem in honor of our 150th anniversary. There will be a catered lunch after the worship service. Make your plans to be here!!!!



Greetings from your Weekday School!

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and, as I am writing this letter, I realize that Christmas is barely over a month away with 2009 right on it's heels! If the old saying, "Time flies when you're having fun" is true, then, I must be having lots of fun because it sure is flying by for me!! I hope all of you are a lot more prepared for the upcoming holidays than I am!☺

The month of November was filled with fun as we learned all about Pilgrims, Indians, maize and turkeys, and prepared for our annual Thanksgiving Feast. The Lead Teachers and Office Staff began the month with some learning of our own as we attended the UMC Weekday Conference in Matthews, NC on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed two wonderful keynote speakers and returned to school with lots of new and useful ideas for our classrooms from the many workshops that were offered. Everyone had a great time on the 19<sup>th</sup> as we were entertained by "Fish the Magish" who presented his fun-filled "Thanksgiving Magic" Show. The children learned about the importance of being thankful while enjoying his amazing magic tricks. The latter part of the month was spent preparing for our annual Thanksgiving Feast that took place on the 21<sup>st</sup>. We had 200+ guests join us for the delicious meal that was prepared by members of our Parents' Association and PGWS Staff. The children helped out with the meal by preparing yummy Pumpkin Muffins for their guests to enjoy. Before the meal, the boys and girls entertained their families and friends with some darling Thanksgiving songs while dressed in the Pilgrim and Indian costumes they had created in class. It was a great day for us all!

December promises to be filled with fun, as well! The 4s & Rs will travel to the Old Salem Candle Tea on December 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> to learn about how Christmas was celebrated by our area's early Moravian settlers. The boys and girls especially enjoy the "Putz"; the tiny replica of Old Salem that is on display. Santa will visit our school on December 8<sup>th</sup> and the children are already "making their lists and checking them twice". This is always a fun day for our staff, too, just watching the little one's reactions to "the jolly old elf"! Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> will be a day of celebration as we enjoy our annual "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Party. The children and staff will celebrate Jesus' birthday by bringing toys that will be donated to the Fox 8 Children's Toy Drive. After the gifts are placed under the tree, we'll enjoy a delicious "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" cake and punch. It's sure to be a fun-filled day! Our Christmas Program will be held on the evening of December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the church Sanctuary. I hope you will plan to join us for an evening that is sure to put you into the true Christmas spirit. The 3s, 4s, & Rs will make up our Angel Chorus who will entertain you with some wonderful Christmas songs while our little ones (PMOs & 2s) present The Nativity. This is an event that you won't want to miss! Be sure to mark your calendars! School will be closed December 17<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Christmas/New Year Break. We'll return to school on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, rested and ready for an exciting and fun-filled 2009!

Special thanks go out this month to Doug Buie who did a wonderful job creating beautiful new brochures for the Weekday School, the B/A School, and PGUMC. Those of us who write, edit, and publish newsletters, advertising, etc. know only too well how much work it is to create a quality publication. "Thank you, Doug!"

Since December is such a busy month for all of us (and such a short month in regards to school days) this is our last PGWS newsletter for 2008. When we return to school in January, we'll be looking forward to school pictures being made by Teddy Bear Portraits on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, the 4s & Rs field trip to the Children's Theatre on the 16<sup>th</sup>, our annual "P.J. Day" which will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and to just being back with our friends - "loving to learn and learning to love". On behalf of the children and staff of Pine Grove Weekday School, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Be sure to keep our important ministry in your prayers. Until next time...Happy Holidays!!

*Chris*

## UMYF NEWS

- Sat. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 6 pm. – 8 pm. LIVE NATIVITY – **PLEASE SIGN UP WITH YOUR PARENTS.**  
 Thurs. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> (2 ) – 30 min. shifts **\*\*SHEPARDS, WISEMEN & ANGLES NEEDED\*\***  
*Community Outreach* **\*\*SEE POLLY C, DEE ANN F. OR SELWYN S. (Light meal served each night.)**
- Tues. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Nativity & Lock-in **NO UMYF MEETING**
- Fri. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>– 6:00 pm – ‘Casting Crowns’ Concert @ Greensboro Coliseum return Pine Grove  
 Sat. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 9 am. ‘Lock In’ until 9 am Saturday Morning. **EVERYONE PICKED UP BY 9 AM.**  
*Concert & LOCK IN G’boro Coliseum & Fellowship Hall*
- Tues. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:00 pm **DINNER @ PARSONAGE** -Pastor Neill & Selwyn’s  
*Fellowship-Dinner & Spiritual Growth*
- \*YOUTH SCHOOL BREAK Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> thru Jan 2<sup>th</sup>. Return Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Thurs. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!!!**  
**Thurs. Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!!**
- Tues. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8 pm. **PARENT – YOUTH MEETING**  
**PARENT – YOUTH MEETING**  
**\*\*Discuss Jan. spaghetti dinner missions fund raiser**  
**\*\*Discuss June 21 – 27<sup>th</sup> Youth Sponsored Mission Trip (Other fund raisers)**  
**\*\*Discuss Jan. – Feb. – March possibilities (Youth expectations-interest?)**

### DID YOU KNOW . . .

**STAFF LOVE OFFERING**—A love offering for the staff will be taken from December 1—21. You may make your donation by marking your offering “Staff Love Offering” and putting it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. You may also drop it by the church office Tuesday-Friday or you may contact any member of the Staff Parish Committee: Rickie Shutt, John Newman, Tom Mahannah, Lisa Hale, Cindy Zimmerman, Dan Genevie, Polly Caudle.

**THE PRIME TIMERS** will meet for breakfast on Sunday, December 14, at 8:30 a.m. preceding Sunday School. Breakfast will be provided and this will be a time of good food and fellowship. Also please note that beginning next year we will only meet every other month starting in February. See you for Breakfast on Sunday, December 14 at 8:30 a.m.

**JOB LOSS SUPPORT GROUP**—Lewisville UMC is offering a support group for those who have lost their jobs and those who are employed in an unstable economy. The group will meet weekly starting Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Lewisville United Methodist Church, 6290 Shallowford Road, Lewisville. All are welcome.

**HANDLE’S MESSIAH**—The 75th annual community and area-wide presentation of Handel’s Messiah will be on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at Reynolds Memorial Auditorium, 301 North Hawthorne Road in Winston-Salem. Guest Conductor Peter Perret will lead four soloists, professional orchestra, and community chorus in the performance. There is no charge for admission; a free-will offering will be received at the concert. For further information, please see our website, [www.MozartClub.org](http://www.MozartClub.org).

# NEWS FROM UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

December, 2008



**OUR PURPOSE:** The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through JESUS CHRIST; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church.

## CIRCLE MEETINGS

The **Sue Rollins Circle** will meet for a Christmas Brunch at the home of Dee Ann Fortescue on December 10 at 9:30 a.m.

The **Gertrude Alspaugh Circle** will meet for a Christmas Dinner at the home of Peggy Williams on December 7 at 7:00 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

Pine Grove UMW members served dinner to the Wesley Foundation on the Wake Forest campus on November 6.

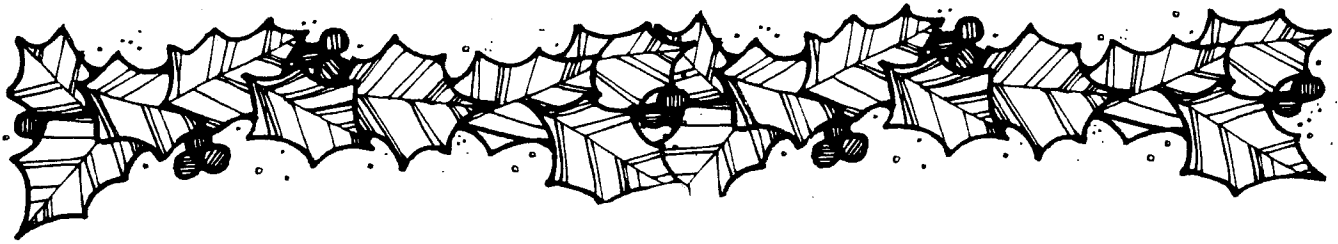
Pine Grove UMW Members hosted a birthday party for residents of Arbor Acres on November 20.

## JOIN US

All women of the church and community are invited to join the United Methodist Women. Our program series for 2009 is entitled, "Who's at the Table?" These programs will explore how we live our call to be in mission with the world.

Both circles meet regularly each month. The Sue Rollins Circle meets on the second Wednesday morning. The Gertrude Alspaugh Circle meets on the second Thursday evening. We encourage you to join us as we find our place at the Table.





## December Newsletter

Happy Holidays! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving. I look forward to all the stories the children will tell of their holiday traditions and time spent with family. Christmas is fast approaching and the holiday season is such an exciting time for children and a perfect time for all of us to reflect on all the blessings in our lives.

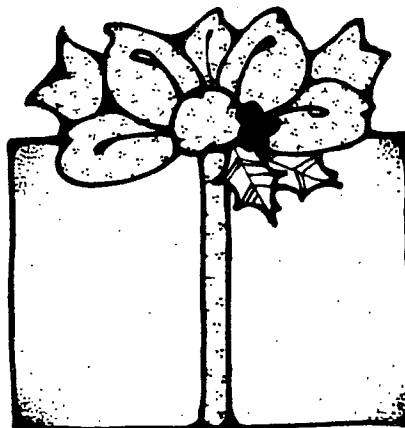
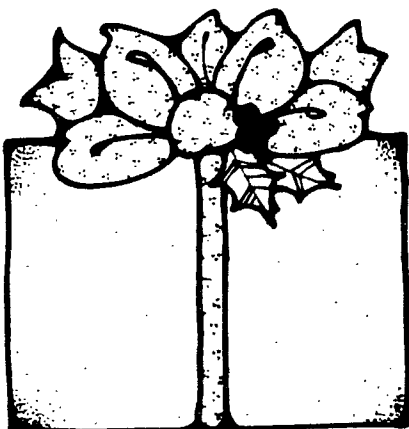
Things continue to run smoothly for us at the Before and After School. I want to thank Peggy Sizemore who has filled in whenever needed and has been such a huge support. THANK YOU!!!! Also thanks to Mary Manning and Alex Niblock who continue to volunteer their time for homework during the week.

We are still collecting non-perishable food items for the Harvest Food Bank. We will continue to accept donations through the month of December. It is wonderful to know that the warehouse shelves are filling up.

We have many children with birthdays this month. Celebrating are Maddux Catron on 12/5, Ana McKenzie on 12/5, Tyler O'Neal on 12/18, Julia Downing on 12/23 and Desiree Snyder on 12/29. We wish each one of them a very happy birthday.

The children will enjoy a Christmas Party on Friday December 19, 2008. We will have a surprise visit that day along with special snack and Christmas bingo. It will be an exciting time for the children.

That is all the news from the Before and After School. As always we want to thank you for your continued support of the program.



The Administrative Council of Pine Grove United Methodist Church met Nov 11, 2008 with the main purpose of discussing the order of future committee and Administrative Council meetings. Jean Darden opened the meeting with devotions. She then reviewed concerns and discussions she had with committee chairpersons prior to this meeting. Beginning in January 2009, committee meetings and council meetings will go as follows:

Meeting dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in January, March, May, August and October

Meeting times: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm covered dish meal and committee meetings

7:00 pm to 8:00-8:30 Administrative Council meeting

Anyone who does not have a committee, but is a council member, may choose to attend just the council meeting. Committee members are welcome to stay for the council meeting but only Administrative Council members can vote.

The following committees may designate their own meeting times as needed: Before & After, Parsonage, Hope House, Athletics & Recreation, Kitchen, Cemetery, Endowment, Bereavement and Nominations.

Members at large United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women Presidents, Senior Adult coordinator, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, Recording Secretary, Boy and Girl Scout coordinator and Sunday School Superintendent will only need to attend the Administrative Council meeting.

Assignments for planning for drinks, clean up and taking down tables are as follows:

January - Trustees and Worship committees

March-Weekday School and Children's Council

May-Staff Parrish and Youth Council

August- Finance and Witness

October-Outreach and Communications

The United Methodist Men have agreed to set up tables.

Pastor Neill noted that he hopes that this meeting schedule will help in communications between committees as well as the scheduling of events and marking the calendar. If meetings are more efficient, more time can be spent ministering rather than meeting. Anyone wishing to attend the Administrative Council meetings is welcome.

Pastor Neill stated that new job descriptions for committees will be coming out in January followed by a training session. Next year the Nominating Committee will include the job description with each letter asking someone to serve on a committee. This will enable members to better understand the function of the committee on which they are asked to serve.

Jack Bullington reported that even in the weak economy, the endowment fund has grown.

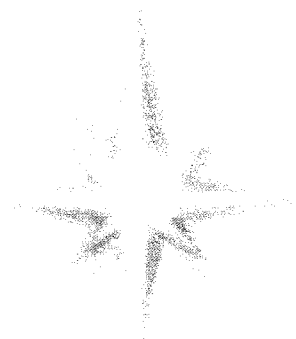
Pastor Neill closed with prayer. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

Becky Meade



# Alternative Ways to Build a Habitat for Humanity House House



- **Make a Donation** in someone's Honor. An handcrafted ornament or card of acknowledgment will be sent to them.
- **Angel Tree** Habitat is working with other agencies to help families who need more than a food basket. Stop by the ReStore and donate money to assist these families. ReStore will match your donation.
- **Donate and Shop** gently used furniture, appliances, etc - at the ReStore.
- **Send** a Year-End Contribution before December 31.

Let's make a difference in someone's life—together!  
All donations are tax deductible.

May all blessings be yours in this wonderful season, and  
in 2009!



**Habitat**  
for Humanity®  
of Forsyth County



Habitat for Humanity®  
**ReStore**

*"Upon wisdom a house is built, and with understanding, it is established. And with knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches." Proverbs 24: 3-4*

Habitat for Humanity , 339 Witt Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

ReStore, 341 Witt Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Call (336) 765-8854, ext. 106 [www.habitatforsyth.org](http://www.habitatforsyth.org)

# *Gifts I'd Leave You*

*The gifts I'd leave beneath your tree,  
Aren't those that you can touch or see,*

*Not wrapped in Christmas tissue gay  
But gifts to bless you every day.*

*The gift of friendship warm and true,  
is one that I would leave for you*

*Good health and happiness and cheer  
To keep you smiling through the year*

*The gift of peace that comes from God,  
With prayer to guide each path you trod*

*And when your heart has lost it's song  
The gift of hope to cheer you on.*

*These are the gifts I'd leave for you  
To bring you joy your whole life through.*

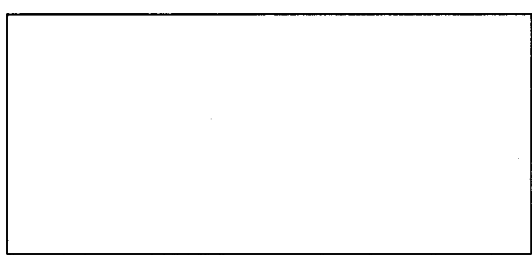
*-Author Unknown-*

*Wishing a very merry Christmas  
And a blessed New Year from the  
Staff of Pine Grove.*

Pastor Nell  
Beverly Myers  
Whitney Ladd  
Peggy Williams

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Clemmons, NC 27012  
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**Pine Grove  
United Methodist Church  
1130 Jonestown Road  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
Phone 336-765-2569  
Fax 336-765-0727  
Email: [pgumc113@bellsouth.net](mailto:pgumc113@bellsouth.net)  
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