



Glassboro First United Methodist Church
The GUMWRAPPER NEWSLETTER
December, 2011 & January, 2012
THE FIRST CHRISTMAS FORM LETTER
(FROM EGYPT)



Via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft, Senior Pastor

The “via” above is intentional, because this month’s column is actually borrowed. As a member of the Fellowship of Merry Christians I have permission to use items from “The Joyful Noiseletter,” their official publication. The December 2011 issue of “JN” featured a fun version of the typical Christmas form newsletter as it might have been written by Jesus’ parents.

The article first appeared in *Christmas Paulpourri*, by Rev. Paul Lintern, a Lutheran pastor, humorist, songwriter, and motivational speaker. Herewith, Pastor Lintern’s take on what the first Christmas form letter might say:

Dear Friends:

We’re sorry to resort to this form letter, especially since we are sending it after the holidays, but this has been a busy year; it is amazing how parenthood takes away free time.

That’s right, parenthood. Joe and I are the proud parents of a beautiful baby boy, a gift from God.

Literally.

Now, I know that you’re good at mathematics, and I know you don’t remember a wedding invitation, just that we were engaged, but it is not what you think. It is a little hard to explain, however.

You also will notice that the postmark is not Nazareth, but Egypt. No, we did not move, at least not permanently. No, Joe did not get transferred, just transplanted.

You remember that census thing? Joe and I had to go to Bethlehem – Joe is a Davidson, after all – and wouldn’t you know it, my time came while we were there.

Everything was full up. Bethlehem was a madhouse. Holiday Inn was packed for the holidays. Red Roof not only had no frills but no vacancies and Motel Six turned the light off for us.

We ended up going to, of all places, a cave. While it wasn’t a picnic, it was a miracle. As we wrapped him up, Joe and I just marveled at this new little life.

We named him Jesus. Actually, an angel named him. I told you it was a busy year.

Anyway, we had just the best Christmas together – that’s what we’re calling it, Christmas. We even had a surprise visit from some shepherds; I won’t tell you how they knew, because I know this already is quite a stretch for you.

So why are we in Egypt? Well, at one point, some astrology professors from Eastern University suddenly showed up at our door, to worship Jesus as the new king, according to some star they saw.

And while it was nice of them to give us gifts, they also gave us away – to that wicked King Herod, who tried to kill Jesus. That is why we took a flight into Egypt.

So please forgive us if we are a little out of touch with things for now. We hope everything will get back to normal soon, so we can move back to Nazareth. Meanwhile, keep us in your prayers, don’t tell Herod where we are, and have a Merry Christmas.

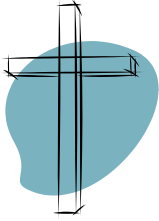
Love, Mary, Joe, and Baby Jesus

I add my wishes to those of the Holy Family. Have not just a Merry, but also a Blessed, Christmas!



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CONSECRATION SUNDAY REPORT

This year the Finance Team tried to do something a little different for the annual Stewardship Drive and I am happy to say the results were good. We have received more pledges as well as a higher amount being pledged. This will allow us to develop a balanced budget by making a few changes and still keep the church involved in the many outreach programs that benefit our community and the world.

The team would like to thank all those who worked on the program as well as the congregation for cooperating with the overall program. Together we are doing the work of God at First United Methodist of Glassboro.

There is also an easier way to fulfill your pledge, than filling an envelope every week, if you so desire – electronic giving. Consider automating your regular donations with our electronic giving program. First UMC relies on the regular financial support of our congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. It is convenient and provides much-needed consistency for our church. You would no longer need to write checks and if you are traveling, ill or other circumstances prevent you from attending Worship Services; our church will continue to receive your contributions on a regular basis. If you are interested in beginning electronic giving in January, please call Paul Conklin, Financial Secretary (589-0049) for more information.

Again, I would like to thank the congregation for their support and may God bless First United Methodist of Glassboro as we share Christ in our world.

Bob Wooton, Finance Team Leader



Dear Members of the First United Methodist Church of Glassboro,

We have a small committee in the communications group who are working on a more feasible way to communicate our newsletter.

We want to: Make everyone happy with their mode of communication. Any member who wants to receive the GumWrapper through their regular mail system is welcome to continue. We will soon offer the GumWrapper through the email system. We are asking all members that would like to receive communication through the email system contact the church office at www.glassboromethodist1@comcast.net. **Please email your desire to receive the Newsletter and News Alerts via email to the church office today!**



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Merry Christmas

Messiah's Birth

We celebrate Messiah's birth. A rebirth, a new start for man. Bathed in His precious light are we. His life birthed a new era of believers born of flesh and of His Holy Spirit, walking in His paths and His ways as we live our lives in the end days.

Praising, rejoicing and singing are we. Telling and recounting His life story in song. Transforming our lives. His light shining bright guides us each day along life's way. The steps to His kingdom, His footprints, He left. By His side we will be thru faith in thee.

So as we sing "The First Noel" on a morning we remember so well, we sing for the joy of His promise. He declared we are saved thru Him. His life we continue to share. His star shines, the new year approaches remember we've been given a new start. Rejoice and thank Him, Praise Him truly with your whole heart.

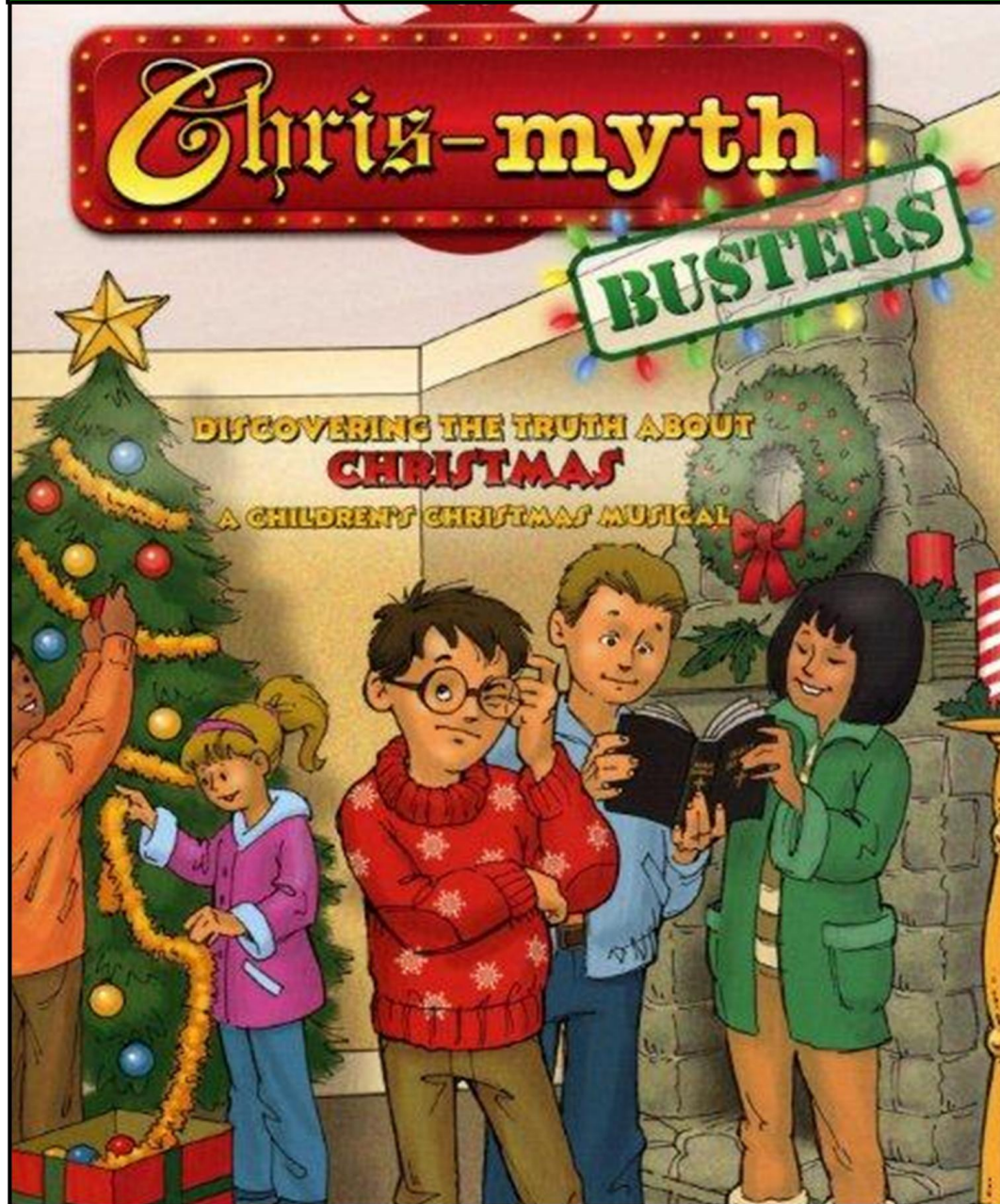
Ann Palmer



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Sunday School Christmas Play



**Sunday December 18th
7:00pm**



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Keswick – Mid-Winter Advance 2012

**A weekend away with Students from
NYACK College**

Attention All 6th – post grads: Coming January 27th- January 29th, 2012.

Total price for the weekend is \$110.00. Late registration will be \$115.00 and is based on availability. Please see Pat Heritage, Robin McGuigan, or Carrie Conboy. A registration form needs to be completed.

Work Camp Youth Mission Trip 2012!

Dear Members of the Glassboro First United Methodist Church,

The youth and the youth leaders have prayerfully considered taking another step forward and have decided to book a YOUTH MISSION TRIP FOR 2012. We have reserved space with Work Camp for a mission trip to Owego, in Tioga County, New York. This area is considered a Disaster Area Mission. Our trip is planned for July 21st – July 29th, 2012. We are collecting a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit from all adults and youth wanting to truly change their life! Please give all deposits to Pat Heritage, Carrie Conboy, or Robin McGuigan.



A Special Thank You from All the Youth

To our church family for sponsoring us during the November Rock – A – thon. We raised over \$2,000.

Thanks once again for your support!

Join The FUMC Youth Group as they sponsor a “Music Night at the Coffeehouse” (formerly Rock Band Bonanza). Coming soon on Friday, December 2nd, at 7pm. Cost is just \$5.00. This event will be held in the Fellowship House. There will be food and beverages available for purchase. Tickets are available at the door.

Coming Soon....”Kingdom Kids”- Next meeting December 4th at 4:30 pm

Attention Parents and Students in grades 3rd, 4th, & 5th.

FUMC is offering a monthly program for all youth in the 3rd – 5th grades. The program is designed to give the students a chance to have devotions, make good Christian friends, and have a lot of fun together. This month’s meeting will be an Ice Cream Social Christmas Party! The lesson will be, “The Christmas Wreath/ The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37. See you in the Fellowship House!



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NEWS

& Notes

HYMN SING There will be a Hymn Sing on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the church sanctuary. December's will be a Christmas Hymn sing on the 14th.

REMINDER: The UMW is still collecting Campbell Soup Labels (**only the UPC code or caps**); Box Tops for Education (including the following products General Mills, Betty Crocker, Scott Paper, Cottonelle, Hefty, Pillsbury and Ziploc); Postage Stamps (need to have **teeth intact and ¼ inch of paper around the stamps. No Flag Stamps**); and Aluminum can tabs. Please place all articles in Narthex – receptacle available.

“JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM.” The Christmas event that drew many from our community last year will be offered again this year by the Glassboro Ministerium on Sun., Dec. 4, beginning at 6:00 PM. Area churches will host brief segments telling the Christmas story. Refreshments will be held at the final stop. More details are forthcoming.

Cherub Choir Director is needed. If you are interested please speak with Pastor Karl.

JUSTICE AND MISSIONS TEAM meets Tues., Dec. 6, 7:00 PM in the Fellowship House.

30+ YEARS ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER hosted by the Glassboro Police Dept, and The Salvation Army will be held on December 4th at the Bullock School (new location), 370 E. New St. at 1:00 PM. Please call 881-1501 ext. 88112 for reservations from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

THANK YOU from Joan: "My heartfelt thanks to my church family for all your prayers, concerns, cards and all the thoughtful phone calls during my treatment. I am so blessed to be part of this family."

“PENNED FROM THE HEART,” the daily devotional guide, will be available soon. Six of the ten pre-ordered copies are still available. Cost: \$10.00 each. Great gift idea! No payment necessary until they arrive. See Pastor Karl.

BAPTIZED November 20th was the son of Lauren Custodio and Lemar Heggs.



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PRAYER CONCERNS: Joan Aveni, Carl & Jackie Bauer, Ethel Beebe, Bettye Bell, Harry Biggs, Jean Bowers, Marie Bradley, Fred Bruynell, Holly Chowning, Paul Conklin, “Billie” Wilma Goss, Cathy Gravino, Joyce Green, Marge Henkle, Baby Hila, Les Horner, Betty Jeffers, Muriel Johnson, T.J. Kerr, Evelyn Kraft, Kim & Danielle Kraft, Ruth Murtha, Lorraine Outlaw, Jane Pollock, Gayle Pote, David Satterfield, Les and Dolly Super, Barbara Siglin, Gail Viden and the Plasket and Meeks family..

MEMBERS & FRIENDS WE MISS SEEING: Anna Hageman, Norma Hendrickson, Larry Henkel, Esther Ivins, Frank Jones, Elaine Koppelman, Helena McDonald, Betty Sellars, Lee Snyder, and Les and Dolly Super.

December and January Calendar



December 2 nd – 4 th	Men’s Retreat – Pitman UMM
December 2 nd	Music Night at the Coffeehouse 7pm, FUMC Youth Sponsored
December 4 th	Old St. George UMC Christmas Musical 3pm
December 4 th	Kingdom Kids 4:30 pm
December 10 th	Community Christmas Stocking Party
December 11 th	Christmas Cantata at the 11 am service
December 14 th	Christmas Hymn Sing, 7 pm
December 18 th	Sunday School Christmas Program, 7 pm
December 24 th	Christmas Eve Services 5pm and 11 pm
December 25th	Christ is Born! One church service at 10am. No Sunday school.
January 1 st , 2012	Services held at 8:30 & 11:00 am
January 7 th	All Committee Chairpersons Calendar Meeting, 9 am
January 11 th	Hymn Sing, 7 pm
January 16 th	Finance Meeting 7pm
January 22 nd	“One Kindred Spirit” Group 7 pm
January 23 rd	Church Council Meeting 7 pm
January 27 th – 29 th	Keswick – Midwinter Advance Youth Weekend
January 29 th	Healing Services 8:30 & 11 am

- **Please note: The Christmas Eve services are 5 pm & 11pm.**
- **Christmas Day is one church service at 10 am.**



CHURCH TEAMS 2011 (Correct as of 11/20/11)

New nominees in **bold**

Education Team

Denise Norton, Chairperson

Suzanne Gaal, Sunday school Superintendent

Class of 2012

Liz O'Keefe
Kristen Bruynell
Evelyn Kraft

Class of 2013

Paula Adams
Ruth Doran
Robin McGuigan

Class of 2014

Aimee Cooper
Cindy Thompson
Ginger Sinning, Treas.

Evangelism and Hospitality Team

Nancy Walters, Chairperson

Class of 2012

Harriet Redondo
Jodi Chowning
Elaine Cooke

Class of 2013

Peg Haney
Dave Haney
Karen Heiser

Class of 2014

Sandi Selzer
Nancy Walters

Finance and Stewardship Team

Bob Wooton, Chairperson

Karl R. Kraft, *Pastor*

* Dave Walters, *Treasurer*

* Joy VanZaeren, *Asst. Treas.*

* Paul Conklin, *Financial Sec'y.*

(* Terms not limited)

Class of 2012

Bryan Strockbine
Diane Schoener

Pat Heritage, *Lay Leader*

Linda DeMarco & Denise Kostiak, *Lay Members Conf.*

Wayne Bernard, *SPR Chairperson*

Cliff Meeks, *Church Council Chairperson*

Audeen Conklin, *Trustees Representative*

Class of 2013

Ingres Simpson

Class of 2014

Allan Wilson

Health and Welfare Team

Bettye Bell, Chairperson

Class of 2012

Brenda Hecker
Marianne Reid
Susanne Gaal

Class of 2013

Carrie Conboy
Anna-Marie Couce
Lois Fanz

Class of 2014

Andrea Schoener
June Longley
Janet Meeks

History Team (Not to be interpreted as classes)

William Mitchell, Chairperson

Gail Herman
Marge Henkel
Phyllis Sauler

Marge Wajda
Howard Gant
George Armstrong.

Arlean Keller
Robert Viden Jr.
William Mitchell



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Justice and Missions Team

Chairperson

Class of 2012

Billie Caira
David Davis
Carrie Conboy

Class of 2013

Liz O'Keefe
Carol Lawlor
Steve Fowler

Class of 2014

Nominations and Lay Leadership Team

Karl R. Kraft, *Chairperson*

Pat Heritage, *Lay Leader*

Class of 2012

Robin McGuigan
Janet Meeks

Class of 2013

June Armstrong

Class of 2014

Julie Balkenhol
Bonnie Marshall
Nancy Dannenhauer

Staff-Parish Relations Team

Wayne Bernard, *Chairperson*

Pat Heritage, *Lay Leader*

Class of 2012

Jay Schoener
Joan Aveni
Donna Mickle

Class of 2013

Wayne Bernard
L. DeMarco, Lay Mmbr.
Chris McGuigan

Class of 2014

Marcie Rule
George Armstrong
Lois Belh

Scholarship Team

Denise Norton, *Chairperson of Education*

Class of 2012

Toni Basich

Class of 2013

Kevin Jeffers

Class of 2014

Charlie Adams

Board of Trustees

Ken Sirisky, President

Class of 2012

Ken Sirisky
Will Brown
Jane Blossom

Class of 2013

Dave Bruynell
Nancy Dannenhauer, Sec.
Tony Caira

Class of 2014

Audeen Conklin, *Treas.*
Jerry Anton
Lois Wigglesworth

Board of Trustees Investment Team

Class of 2012

Les Horner

Class of 2013

Rusty Marshall

Class of 2014

Audeen Conklin, Treas.

Worship Team

Cliff Meeks, *Chairperson*

William Mitchell, Minister of Music

Class of 2012

Abby Bargloski
Nancy Walters

Class of 2013

Ann Palmer
Sarah Hollins

Class of 2014

Bob Viden
Julie Palmisano
Susan Dillard



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Officers for 2012 Calendar Year – Church Council

(All council members are also members of the Church Conference;

***=Ex Officio Members)**

*Pastor	Doctor Karl Kraft
*Associate	Pastor Marilyn Pote Hutton
*Pastoral Assistant	Denise Kostiak
*Retired Clergy	Reverend Doctor Tom White
*Minister of Music	William Mitchell
Care Ministry Team Representative	Marge Henkel
Children’s Ministry Coordinator	Becky Owen
*Church Council Chairperson	Cliff Meeks
Church Council Recording Secretary	
Church Historian	William Mitchell
*Church Treasurer	Dave Walters
Church Treasurer Assistant	Joy VanZoren
Communications Coordinator	Jeri Hendrie
Education Team Chairperson	Denise Norton
Evangelism/Hospitality Team Chairperson	Nancy Walters
Finance & Stewardship Team Chairperson	Bob Wooton
Financial Secretary	Paul Conklin
GUM wrapper Editor	Robin McGuigan
Health & Welfare Chairperson	Bettye Bell
Justice& Missions Chairperson	
*Lay Leader	Pat Heritage
*Lay Members to Annual Conference	Linda DeMarco, Denise Kostiak
Meeting Reminder Coordinator	Bob Ash
Membership Secretary	Marge Henkel, Donna Mickle
*Staff-Parish Relations Committee	Wayne Bernard
Sunday school Superintendant	Suzanne Gaal
Transportation Coordinator	
Trustees President	Ken Sirisky
UMYF Representatives	Rebecca Conboy, Sean McGuigan
United Methodist Men President	Dave Walters
United Methodist Women President	Joan Aveni
Video Team Chairperson	
Volunteer Ministries Coordinator	June Armstrong
Webmaster	Nancy Walters
Worship Team Chairperson	Cliff Meeks
Youth Ministries Coordinators	Pat Heritage, Robin McGuigan
Members at Large	George Armstrong, Chris McGuigan, Suzanne Gaal, Muriel Johnson, Audeen Conklin



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The Christmas A, B, C's

A is for **A**nimals who shared the stable.

B is for the **B**abe in the manger cradle.

C is for the **C**arols so blithe and so gay.

D is for **D**ecember, the twenty-fifth day.

E for the **E**ve when we're all so excited.

F for the **F**un when the tree's at last lighted.

G for the **G**oose, so round and so fat.

H for the **H**olly you stick in your hat.

I for the **I**vy that clings to the wall.

J is for **J**esus, the cause of it all.

K for the **k**indness begot by this feast.

L is the **L**ight shining way in the east.

M for the **M**istletoe, all green and white.

N for the **N**oels we sing Christmas Night.

O for the **O**xen, the first to adore Him.

P for the **P**resents **W**ise Men laid before Him.

Q for the quaking of shepherds in fear, when the bright angels brought them the words of good cheer.

R for the **R**eindeer leaping the roofs.

S for the **S**tockings that Santa Claus stuffs.

T for the **T**oys, the **T**insel, the **T**ree.

U is for **U**s- the whole family.

V is for **V**isitors bringing us cheer.

W is **W**elcome to the happy New Year.

XYZ bother me! All I can say, this is the end of my Christmas lay.

So now to you all, wherever you be, a Merry Merry Christmas, and many may you see!

Submitted by: June Armstrong



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The Fun Corner



December 2011						
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

January 2012						
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				

PUZZLE

A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

$7+6$ strength $9+1$ shepherd $30-5$ the $7+5$ ends $50-26$ live
 $21-10$ will $27-29$ reach $10+7$ flock $40-20$ stand $15+9$ security $8+8$ his
 $35-31$ low $17-3$ greatness $10-3$ earth $10+5$ will $5+1$ will

"He _____ and _____ his _____
 in the _____ of the _____ And they _____
 _____, for then _____
 _____ to the _____ of _____."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely; for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

Do you know what a QRC is?

We've learned that when you scan this 3-D Barcode with a Smartphone, this code will take you to a website. In this case, it is www.glassboromethodist.org

Give it a try, Right NOW!



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