

SAINT ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church, 1230 Townsend Avenue, New Haven, CT 06513

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Bishop Bickerton Responds to Charlottesville Events 8/16/2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the New York Annual Conference, this one has taken a little while. Having a virus

in the middle of the summer will do that to you; so will the virus that seems to have affected life all around us. When the word began to emerge from the horrific events in Charlottesville, Virginia a few days ago one of my first reactions was a genuine one: "What will I say this time that will be any different than what has been said over and over again these past several months?" It has happened to us again — an intolerable, unacceptable, egregious act of racism, violence and injustice. This is an event that once again calls every leader to speak out against every white supremacist, neo-Nazi, and hate group that exists, calling for justice, civility, and a better way. Lives have been lost and others have been scarred for a lifetime. It just isn't right.

As I laid in bed dealing with my own virus, I began to reflect on the virus that was being described on the television in front of me. It's an illness that has crippled and paralyzed us in so many ways. My first emotion was one of sadness. I began to think about innocent victims on site in Charlottesville and the chaos they were immersed in when a car plowed into the crowd. My sadness grew when I thought about family members of a young woman and two police officers who died. It grew even more when I thought about those who have seen this happen all too often in other settings and have been victimized by racism and alienation all their lives.

It just isn't right.

My sadness quickly turned to feelings of anger. I was angered at the hatred being thrown around in vulgar signs and inappropriate words. I grew angry when I saw people who somehow felt as if they had a right to do what they were doing and even more so when a former leader of the KKK stated that they were carrying out the mandate "to take our country back." My anger boiled over when I began to think about what I would say if I were in that setting and how I would retaliate with rebuttals to such narrow thinking. I watched it all and kept thinking to myself one thing.

It just isn't right.

In the hours that followed, I found my anger being "ministered to" when I read a "tweet" from Barack Obama. In a very appropriate and well-timed moment, the former President quoted Nelson Mandela in his book, Long Walk to Freedom, "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." Mandela was right then and Obama was right in quoting it in the midst of this situation. And in that moment, I felt guilty for my own sense of hatred that had been stirred in the midst of this unfolding tragedy. Hatred.

It just isn't right.

Those emotions led me to a feeling of disappointment. Disappointment that we were having to experience yet another scene of pain, discord, and inappropriate behavior. Disappointment in leaders who could not appropriately or accurately name the wrongness of the action. Disappointment that, no matter the progress being made, we were once again forced to step back and start again from the beginning. Disappointment that racism continues to deeply affect people within our communities and churches in ways that are oppressive and sinful. And, if I'm honest, disappointment in myself.

I began to wonder, as I have before, things like: When were the times when I did not address a situation properly when I had the chance? When were the times when I looked the other way and did not deal with a matter at hand that needed a strong word of advocacy and justice? What were the occasions when I leaned inappropriately on my own white privileges and failed to see clearly the racism around me that needed a voice that declared the wrong and projected the right? You see, I was always taught to remember the old phrase that says, "when you point the finger at someone else, there are three fingers pointing right back at you." Jesus made a similar reference when he talked about our tendency to point out the speck in someone else's eye all

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the while ignoring the log in our own. For all of my disappointment over what was happening in Charlottesville, I couldn't help but be disappointed in myself as well.

As the statements addressing what happened in Virginia began to emerge, nothing seemed to satisfy me. I read one statement and thought, "That didn't go far enough." I read another and thought, "Yep, I read almost the exact thing the last time." Nothing seemed to reach me.

That is, until I read a response written by my friend, Julius Trimble, the bishop of the Indiana Annual Conference. In Bishop Trimble's statement, he made a reference to our baptismal and membership vows as United Methodists. That article led me to my hymnal. And my hymnal led me to the words that inspired and challenged me in the midst of this latest act of violence and hatred.

In each liturgy found in our hymnal, these words are repeated over and over again: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? Will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world? Will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Read these vows again. Pay attention to the words underlined. These are the "strongest possible terms" anyone could use in addressing the injustices associated with the actions of white supremacy, neo-Nazism, and blatant racism. They just so happen to be the words associated with what we have been asked to do every day as United Methodist Christians. We renounce wickedness, reject evil, resist oppression! We accept God's power and confess our need for God's grace! We strive for faithfulness, long to represent Christ in the world, and pray for the courage to strengthen our witness! This is who we are called to be!

So, what is the appropriate response to the actions in Charlottesville? We shouldn't be afraid to point the finger at these actions and say, "It just isn't right!" But should also see the fingers pointed back at ourselves as well. Read those vows again. Repeat them. And ask yourself the question, "How am I renouncing wickedness, rejecting evil, resisting injustice, confessing Jesus Christ, trusting God's grace, serving as Christ's representatives, and witnessing to it all in the way I live my life?"

Don't wait for someone to write an article or make another statement about something that has happened in our midst. Go do something about it!

There's only one thing to say if anything less is done.

It just isn't right.

The Journey Continues...

Peace & Joy,

Thomas J. Bickerton, President Bishop



Dates to Remember:



- Labor Day:** September 4th (building closed)
- Clean-Up Day:** Every First Saturday of the month (Saturday 9th)
- Thrift Shop:** Saturday 9th from 9AM-12PM
- Rally Day:** Sunday school returns on September 10th during service
- District Superintendent Installation Service:** September 10th from 4PM-6PM at Nichols UMC
- Safe Sanctuary Training:** September 17th after service
- Finance Team Meeting:** Tuesday September 26th at 7PM
- SPRC meeting:** To be determined
- Pastor Away for Bishop's Tri District Retreat:** October 2nd-3rd
- Administrative Church Council:** Tuesday October 10th at 7PM in the parsonage
- Special Sunday UMC World Communion Sunday:** October 1st
- Columbus Day:** October 9th (building closed)
- Operation Christmas Child Packing Party:** October 22nd after church
- Sunday School Halloween Party:** Saturday, October 28th from 2PM-4PM

Believe

- B**elieve. Believe in the transformative power of love.
- Believe in the promise of peace on earth and that all people, regardless of their differences, can find ways to share this place.
- Believe in the spirit of Santa Claus, a spirit that lives in children's eyes and the hearts of those who offer others gifts just because.
- Believe in the importance of family that makes us who we are.
- Believe that those who are no longer able to stand next to us still stand by us — they are there when our hearts ache and when our hearts soar with joy.
- Believe in the connection between the infinite and the infinitesimal nature of the universe.
- Believe that light can always conquer darkness; that light shines within us all, and it can be shared with others.
- Believe in justice and truth as the only path to true freedom — both political freedom and personal freedom.
- Believe there is good in everyone.
- Believe that silence is holy and can show us answers to questions we never realized we had.
- Believe that the music that moves us to joyful tears, and laughter that lifts a wounded heart, is the sound of silence.
- Believe that acting out of kindness is always better than acting out of necessity, because what is most needed is kindness.
- Believe in embracing joy and wonder and beauty in all its forms.
- Believe in hope, for it makes all things possible.
- Believe in the magic of Christmas.



Thank you Elizabeth Harlow
 For helping us worship with emotion and joy,
 For the teacher in you that taught and inspired the choir,
 For daring to use your talent at the piano and organ,
 For caring for Saint Andrew's UMC and everyone in its congregation,
 For the many years you blessed us with your service.
 Thank you, Liz, for sharing your gift of music with us.
 We humbly pray that you continue to experience
 The treasure of God's bountiful blessing.



The mission of The United Methodist Church is to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (Matthew 28: 18-20; Matthew 22: 36-40). This mission is achieved through vital congregations that equip and empower people to be disciples of Jesus Christ in their homes and communities around the world.

Our Vitalsigns:

The Vitalsigns Dashboard is a tool developed by Brick River through GCFA. This tool allows you to track your weekly worship attendance, professions of faith, small group participation, missional participation and financial giving for your congregation. It is a tool designed to help congregations follow their progress on the goals that they set for each year, based upon the goal-setting challenge initiated by the Vital Congregations work. It is a response to the Call to Action to focus on fostering and sustaining an increase in the number of vital congregations effective in the mission of The United Methodist Church.

Date	Worship Attendance	Small Groups Attendance (week)	Pledges & Offerings	Charitable Giving	New Members
8/20/17	29	0	\$864	\$0	0
8/13/17	37	0	\$1210	\$0	0
8/6/14	34	0	\$914	\$62	0
7/30/17	39	0	\$778	\$0	0
7/23/17	34	0	\$506	\$0	0
7/16/17	43	0	\$393	\$5	0
7/9/17	43	0	\$876	\$20	0
7/2/17	34	0	\$943	\$67	0
6/25/17	34	0	\$889	\$0	0
6/18/17	57	0	\$975	\$20	0

Missions



We serve God by serving others. Here is what you can do:



Connectional Giving: all of us giving together allows United Methodists to do together what we cannot do alone.

We join in with United Methodists around the world in 6 special collections through the year. The money collected goes 100% to a specific mission designated by the general church. For more information, go to UMC GIVING.com. Next Special Collection is October 1st, World Communion Sunday. Every first Sunday you can donate to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund -- this money is used by the pastor to help with immediate needs in the community.



Food Pantry Collection: non-perishable items are collected during the month. Every first Sunday of each month the collection is delivered to a local Food Pantry. Fall and winter months are always challenging, and Food Pantries are always empty.



Days for Girls International is a grassroots non-profit creating a more dignified, humane and sustainable world for girls through advocacy, reproductive health awareness, education and sustainable feminine hygiene, because no girl should go without. The poverty cycle can be broken when girls stay in school,

which is a huge challenge in some countries. Not having sanitary supplies means Days without school and isolation. Days for Girls gives Days back to girls, Days that can change their lives. Our church will be joining the CT district and the New York Annual Conference this year to support the Days for Girls program. For \$20, one Kit will provide sustainable feminine hygiene for one girl for 3 years! Please make checks payable to the Saint Andrew's UMC (write Days for Girls in memo line).



Join us in our 2017 Operation Christmas Child campaign. Help us fill many boxes full with hope and joy for children all over the world. We will be collecting small toys, school supplies and \$9 per box so they can be shipped around the world.



RAISE THE ROOF is a Connecticut District Mission Project in Partnership with the South Congo Conference. Bishop Kaiinda Katembo has reached out to Rev. Wayne Lavender, pastor of Faith UMC in North Haven and director of the Foundation 4

Orphans, requesting the construction of a new orphanage for 80 children in the city of Lubumbashi, DRC. The newly proposed and designed orphanage for 80 children will consist of 5 buildings. The roofing for these dorms will be tin. Each building will need 80 sheets of tin: cost to install each sheet of tin (including purchasing of the tin, nails and labor) will be approximately \$50. Our church will join our District on this project. Please make checks payable to the Saint Andrew's UMC (write Raise the Roof in memo line).



Hope Bags: We are looking for items to fill Hope bags to share with people in a homeless situation around New Haven. So far, our members have distributed more than 100 bags. Praise God! Some ideas are: 1 gallon zip lock bags, socks, cereal bars, water bottles tissues, soap, deodorant, shampoos, etc. You can also donate money for this ministry and we will shop for you!

Finance News



The General Council on Finance and Administration is proud to be in partnership with Tribute to present UMCmarket.org -- the online portal designed for United Methodists to shop online at a variety of retailers who will donate to your local church or other United Methodist entities, to help you raise funds for ministry. Visit umcmarket.org, establish your free online account and support our church.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support our church every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our church. Make sure you select Saint Andrew's UMC as your org!

Letter from Finance Chairman

Thank you for your faithful support which has allowed St. Andrew's UMC to do really meaningful ministries. We prayerfully thank God for each one of you and your generosity because it is only with your responses that our ministries can be successful. God has brought us together to utilize our gifts and resources for Him. Last year during our Giving Campaign Pastor Ximena asked each of us to support St. Andrews through prayer, presence, service, witness and giving (both spiritually and financially). In order to maintain a vital and healthy church with a long future every one of these ingredients are indispensable. We need your help to be responsible stewards of this community called St. Andrews and all the buildings in our care for many years to come. This means making sure everything is locked and lights are off when we leave. It also means we depend on your pledges and financial giving to ensure the growth of our community. We know we can count on your faithfulness because we know your gifts are given to advance God's Kingdom. On the last Sunday of October we will be receiving pledges for our Stewardship Campaign. Now is a good time to catch up if you are late with your pledges. It is only with your help that we will be able to fulfill our operational obligations and be a vital church helping to serve the community. Thank you to all that have pledged to our Stewardship Campaign previous years and we invite you to prayerfully consider pledging again. To all that haven't previously pledged please prayerfully consider doing it. The Finance Committee makes the church budget based on the pledges we receive. Honoring our pledges helps us fulfill our obligations in God's name.

Thank you,
John Quimby

In Loving Memory



Dorey Boutwell
June 5, 1928 - July 9, 2017

*I'm Free
Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me,
I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and I left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I've found that place at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with a remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.
Ah, yes, these things, I too, shall miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with me
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

If you'd like to send a card to Dory's nieces be sure to address them to Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Kathy Smith at 1040 Boston Turnpike, Bolton CT, 06043.



Jamie Lawson for helping us organize our Thrift Shop! All the workers who have taken jobs around the church! Lois McDonald for hosting our annual church picnic!



Are you interested in becoming a member of our church or want to learn more about us? Please contact the pastor!



Here at Saint Andrew's, we believe in the power of prayer! If you or someone you know needs prayer, please contact the pastor by phone or e-mail.



Pastor Ximena is available for talks, prayers and visits; in fact, she would love for you to invite her to visit. Please call her office, cell, or send her an e-mail to set up an appointment. Let her know if you or a loved one is in the hospital.



Receive updates, prayer requests and what is happening in worship every week; subscribe to our mailing list by emailing us, office@standrewsnh.com



Please sign up to bring snacks and/or drinks for the coffee hour. The sign-up sheet is on the refrigerator in the kitchen. Contributions are greatly needed and appreciated!



Mandatory training for Sunday School teachers, assistants and substitute teachers on September 17th right after service at fellowship hall. If you feel Called to be a substitute teacher please talk to Carol or pastor Ximena.



Sunday School Halloween Party is on Saturday, October 28th from 2PM-4PM. Donations of individually wrapped candy are welcome. Please bring your donation before October 22nd.



Welcome Back Sunday School

Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church Sunday School Rally Day will be held on September 10th at 10:30AM. This will be a family worship service, followed by Sunday School classes with welcome back activities. We encourage you to register your child or children for our Sunday School program by filling out the registration form found on page 5.

Classes for children, ages 4 and up, will meet on the second, third, and fourth Sundays of each month. On the first Sunday, (and the fifth, if there is one), we will have family worship time and everyone will attend the church service. Classes will begin meeting on September 10th. The children will attend the church service, remaining until the children's message. They will then go to their classes. Children 4 years old to 2nd grade will go with Miss Diana in the hall. Children 3rd grade and up will meet with Miss Carol at the pastor's office. Children 3 and under are encouraged to attend the worship service and stay with their parents. Children's corner in the sanctuary is available with different materials to keep our younger children engaged. We look forward to seeing you and your child/children on Sunday, September 10th at 10:30AM!

The Acolyte Program

The Acolytes continue to light the candles every week and we appreciate their dedication. All young people in third grade or higher are welcome to participate. This year, Briannah Morales will be in charge of the program, with Destiny Herrmann as her assistant. If anyone is interested in serving as an acolyte, please speak to Briannah or Carol Tripp.



1 Corinthians 12:12-14 'The Voice'

Just as a body is one whole made up of many different parts, and all the different parts comprise the one body, so it is with the Anointed One. ¹³We were all ceremonially washed through baptism together into one body by one Spirit. *No matter our heritage—Jew or Greek, insider or outsider—no matter our status—oppressed or free—we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Here's what I mean: the body is not made of one large part, but of many different parts.*

Our church functions well when all the parts do their job, the vitality of the church lays on Disciples of Christ, like yourselves, willingness to share your gifts given by the Holy Spirit for the transformation of our community in Jesus' name.

We have several jobs open in our community. My hope is that you will consider sharing your time and your talents with us.

- Nursery Teacher and Assistant: provides care for children under 4 years of age during worship. The nursery teacher and assistant need to follow our Safe Sanctuary policies
- Altar Care: in charge of decorating the altar depending on the season and theme of worship, change the colors of the altar, buy and set the communion elements weekly.
- Administrative Assistant: assists the pastor with administrative tasks like printing bulletins, inserts and other office duties.
- Adult Group Leaders: organizes and facilitates small faith group formations that would meet at different places and times during the week.

If there is another gift that you possess that is not listed we invite you to talk to the pastor. We are all needed to make St. Andrew's a vital congregation that makes disciples in Jesus' name.



Operation Christmas Child (Shoebbox program): While many of us are thinking that Christmas is 4 months away we have to have the shoeboxes ready by early November. Many of us have seen the Back To School sales already. That is the perfect time to pick up the school supplies we use in our program. When you can purchase a box of 24 crayons for .25 compared to \$1.00 at other times of the year it helps extend our money to help out 4 children instead of only 1. Thank you to those that have purchased items towards our 100 box goal for 2017. Listed below are the items we have and those that we still need. Thank you for your support.

[John, Jocelyn and John M. Quimby](#)

Items needed for Shoeboxes as of **8-16-2017**: 40 Pencil Sharpeners, 47 whiffle balls, 85 Pencils (we give 2 per box), 58 stuffed animals (like the bears at Dollar Tree stores), 30 individual packs of tissues, 76 pairs of scissors, 115 Pencil Erasers (we give 2 per box), \$9 to ship each box.

Items **NOT needed** for Shoeboxes: Matchbox cars, 3" X 5" pads, crayons, 8.5" x 11" spiral bound notebooks, glue sticks, toothbrushes, washcloths. **Program does NOT allow** candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow-globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.



St. Andrew's UMC
2017-2018 Sunday School Registration

Student Information

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last: _____

Nickname: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Grade level starting this year in school: _____

Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

Medical, Physical, emotional or leaning Limitations:

Any additional information you would like to share concerning your child:

Person to contact other than you in case of emergency: _____

Relationship to child: _____ Phone: _____

*Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Female Guardian: _____ Relationship to child: _____

Address & Phone Number (if different from the child's):

Please call me if help is needed with my child's class: YES _____ NO _____

Male Guardian: _____ Relationship to child: _____

Address & Phone Number (if different from the child's):

Please call me if help is needed with my child's class: YES _____ NO _____

Completed form should be returned to the church office:

St. Andrew's UMC
1230 Townsend Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
Attn: Sunday School Director

To be filled in by teacher or Chairperson of Education

Class: _____

Teacher: _____

Fall Worship Guide 2017
Worship time 10:30 AM

Not Fair! by Brian Erickson

God's idea of fairness is very different to our own. The gospel of Christ is not merely personal, but social. Followers of Christ are called to model the kind of selfless love that Jesus exemplifies, even when people seem utterly undeserving of it. The amazing Grace we so joyfully sing about for ourselves is not easy to swallow when we watch someone else receive it, but this is the heart of Christian community. As we grow in Christ, we learn to love like Christ, even when it is not fair.

9/3 How to Fight like a Christian

Jesus gives a plan to settling conflict in the church
Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20

9/10 Rally Day

We kick off the beginning of Sunday school by blessing the children, teachers, and backpacks!
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:4-7 & Psalm 71:17

9/17 The Math of Forgiveness

Real Grace means losing count of wrongs
Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

9/24 A Fair Wage

We don't get what we deserve.
Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

The Enemies of Gratitude by Brian Erickson

A stewardship series exploring the things that keep us from being content and grateful.

10/1 World Communion Sunday: Nostalgia

Glorifying the past blinds us to present blessings.
Scripture: Exodus 17:1-17

10/8 Worry

It's not about less stress, but more trust
Scripture: Philippians 4:1-9

10/15 Laity Sunday

Therefore, Go! with HOPE Through Hospitality
 Roena Littlejohn, Conference Lay Leader,
 preaching

Entitlement: None of us "deserves" the invitation, but we share it anyway.

Scriptures: Matthew 22:1-14 & Matthew 28:19-20

10/22/17 Greed

Give to God what is God's
Scripture: Matthew 22:15-22

10/29/17 Disappointment

Don't let a loss keep you from appreciating the good.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

The Good News about Death by Brian Erickson

Facing a difficult topic as people with resurrection hope. While we speak of death often at funerals, we rarely tackle the subject head on in our Sunday worships. This series will give us a sage space to talk about death and the Christian hope of resurrection.

11/5 All Saints Day

The Other Side of the Curtain

We remember those who came before us, and we worship knowing death is not the end

Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17

11/12 Grieving with Hope

We grieve in the paradox between the human loss and eternal life

Scripture: 1 Thessalonian 4:13-18

11/19 How Many Shopping Days Left?

Life is a gift; use it wisely.

Scripture: Psalm 90:1-12

11/26 United Methodist Student Day (Special Sunday UMC)

Christ the King: The Last Word

No matter what life (and death) brings, Christ has the last word.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23



Rawle Nathaniel Lynch 9/5
 Jocelyn Quimby 9/11
 Claire Webster 9/15
 Cheska Stamaría Bala 9/23
 Crystalene Tobias 9/25
 Cathalene Tobias 9/25
 Aliani Cordero 10/3
 Jorge Varas 10/11
 Carol Lawson 10/13
 Timaya Sandra Lynch 10/15
 Javier Varas 10/17
 Mary Cokerline 10/21
 Moises Diaz 10/21
 Ariana Marie Lopez 10/24
 Mary Lou Adamez 10/31

**Saint Andrew's
United Methodist Church**

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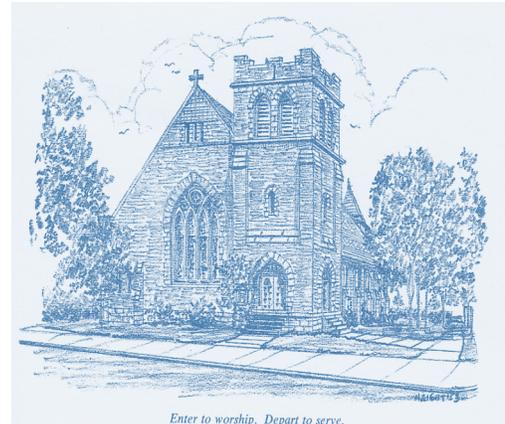
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September/October 2017