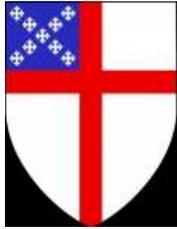


Phone: 360-249-3281

Website: www.stmarksmonte.com



Rev. Lorraine Dierick, Priest
Rev. Bonnie Campbell, Priest
Rev. Joyce Avery, Deacon
Corby Varness, Preacher
Jim Campbell, Preacher

Worship
Sundays at 10 a.m.

St. Mark's Newsletter

Click on Newsletters in the middle left of our Home Page.

St. Mark's Church Video

Click on St. Mark's Video in the upper right of our Home Page.

St. Mark's Sermons

All of the sermons from our Sunday worship services are placed on our website to be read and studied further within a couple of days of being preached on Sundays. Click on Recent Sermons in the middle right of our Home Page.

St. Mark's Bishop's Committee Minutes

A list of all meeting minutes from 2009 on is found below the Upcoming Meeting Agenda. Click on Administration in the middle left of our Home Page, then click on BC Meeting Minutes in the right side of the page

Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

ST. MARK EPISCOPAL CHURCH
124 NORTH SYLVIA STREET
PO BOX 533
MONTESANO, WA 98563

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Newsletter

November-December, 2015

Continuing Activities

Weekly Bible Study--Wednesdays, 10:00AM, at St. Mark's

Our weekly Bible study on Wednesdays generally uses the weekly Lectionary readings used in the Sunday worship services. No preparation is needed. Please join us for this study each week—Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30AM. (We're also looking at some interesting videos for part of our time each week to enhance our Bible learning experiences.)

Feed Your Spirit Book Club—Monthly on Second or Third Mondays, 12 Noon

Our monthly book club generally meets on the second or third Monday each month. We read a new book every other month and also discuss other books people have read for an hour (or more as some might feel led to do, over your brown bag lunch). Invite your friends and neighbors to join us! The webpage is at: <http://www.stmarksmonte.com/article.php?id=193>

Worship Information—Sundays at St. Mark's

Readings—shared, people volunteer just before the start of the service for the Old and New Testament readings. *Flowers*—provided by the Worship Team most Sundays. However, if you want to supply them for a specific Sunday (maybe to remember a loved one or celebrate an important event), this can be arranged in advance—just make it known to the Altar Guild folks. *Prayers for Healing*—3rd Sundays, just before the Peace. Anyone can come to the altar rail and request laying on of hands and prayers for themselves--or for anyone else named. Prayers do work!! And the anointing oil used smells good!

Upcoming Events

Christmas Celebration (12/24/2015), 5pm, at St. Mark's

Decorating of the worship space is usually done in stages during Advent up until after the worship service on the Sunday before Christmas, December 20th. Our Christmas Eve service on Thursday, December 24th at 5:00PM, will be a festive communion service with several Christmas hymns (including the lighting of individual candles during "Silent Night") for everyone who attends! And, there is always wonderful refreshments and fellowship afterwards.

Pledge Sunday (11/29/2015 and on), at St. Mark's

We will receive and bless our 2016 pledge commitments. Our pledges fund our ministries here at St. Mark's—we have no endowed funds for operating the church. This helped us to finalize the 2016 budget for the ministry of St. Mark's.

105th Diocesan Convention (11/13-14/2015) at the Lynnwood Convention Center

Rev. Lorraine Dierick, Rev. Bonnie Campbell, Jim Campbell, and Gail Rolfe will attend for St. Mark's.

All Saints Celebration (11/1/2015), 10:00AM at St. Mark's

All Saints Day--we celebrate those who came before us. There is a combination of tables for displaying pictures of those loved ones who we remembered during the service, and candles to light as we pray for them.

Other Ongoing Activities at St. Mark's (in Calder Hall)

Sundays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous
Tuesdays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous
Thursdays 12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous
7 pm Gamblers Anonymous
Fridays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Recent News

Kids Halloween Treats (10/31/2015) at St. Mark's

On a very rainy evening many kids got treats, there were dog treats, and coffee and restrooms were available for all in this evening of fun in the neighborhood. From about 5-7pm, many kids with their parents came by, and the costumes were awesome!

Blessing of the Pets Sunday (10/4/2015) at St. Mark's

Our 13th annual special service for our pets was a time of joy for all involved. 2 mini horses, several dogs and a bird and their owners received blessings for another year. The collection taken this year was split between the Grays Harbor PAWS and the Freedom Tails programs, as always.

Annual Church Picnic (Labor Day Weekend Sunday, 9/6/2015) at St. Mark's

We had it here at church! Inside!! We know not to test mother nature! And we also supplied the Chaplains on the Harbor Sunday evening meal again at St. Andrew's, Aberdeen for the local homeless community. The Rev. Sarah Monroe from Chaplains was with us to preside and preach!

Summary of St. Mark's Finances—10/25/2015 (Last--9/20/2015)

Net Operating Year to Date-- \$3,220.74 (Last--\$1,605.13)

We are staying well ahead for the year at this time. We should have large surplus at year end, based on planned expenses to finish the year.

Total Operating Expenses-- \$18,129.01 (Last--\$16,599.56)

Highlights—All bills received are paid current.

Outreach to Date--\$4,228 Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid--\$2,675

Total Operating Revenues-- \$21,349.75 (Last--\$18,204.69)

Overall, total revenues for the year are doing well.

Non-Operating Revenues--\$-106.46 Non-Operating Expenses--\$889.81

Net Non-Operating Year to Date--\$-996.27 (Last--\$753.65)

Net All Operating and Non-Operating Year to Date-- \$2,224.47 (Last --\$851.48)

Funds Summary—Total is \$29,357.54 (last--\$27,984.55)

Operating Fund (General)--\$5,878.88 (last--\$4,095.27)

- General/Designated Checking Account—\$5,360.00 (last--\$3,576.41)
- General/Designated Savings Account--\$518.88 (last--\$518.86)

Diocesan Investment Fund--\$23,062.14 (last--23,433.76)

- Memorial Fund (part of DIF)--\$1,017.91 (last--1,034.32)

Clergy Discretionary Fund/Checking Account--\$416.52 (last--\$455.52)

Other Articles on Faith and Other Things

New Presiding Episcopal Bishop Envisions A World Transformed By God's Love Bishop Michael Curry is the first African-American to lead the denomination.

Huffington Post Religion News Service By Adelle M. Bank Posted: 10/30/2015

COURTESY OF EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

(RNS) Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry, the son of an Episcopal priest and grandson of a Baptist preacher, will be installed as presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church on Sunday (Nov. 1) at Washington National Cathedral. Curry, 62, has been the leader of the Diocese of North Carolina for 15 years. He spoke with Religion News Service about being the first African-American to lead the denomination and his plans to focus on evangelism and inclusion.

The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: Members of the Union of Black Episcopalians are calling your election their “Obama moment” and others have compared you to Pope Francis. How are you dealing with those comparisons?

A: I hope the pope and the president aren’t too embarrassed by the comparison. I think what is going on for all of us is a deep hope that we as the Episcopal Church can make an impact in the world in some significant way, even more than we have, so that the world we all live in can be a different place. I think the election of President Obama and, frankly, the elevation of a pope like Pope Francis are signs that the world doesn’t have to be the way it is, that it can actually change and that our faith can help to lead us to be a part of that change.

Q: What do you see as your primary tasks ahead?

A: I think first to inspire and encourage the church and all of us as part of the church to embrace our vocation as part of the Jesus movement in the world. If 2 million Episcopalians are going out and functioning in this world as people who are actually following the teachings of Jesus and living in his spirit, in his way, they’re going to change some things. Our General Convention when it gathered this summer really did lift up two critical priorities. One was for us as the Episcopal Church to really embrace evangelism and the sharing of the good news of God’s incredible, reconciling love that we know in Jesus, and that’s a positive evangelism, that’s a gracious evangelism, that’s a generous evangelism, that’s evangelism with a smiling face that’s a real smile.

Q: What was the second priority at the General Convention?

A: The second was to embrace serious work of racial reconciliation, which is the beginning of the work of reconciliation between human beings across all the divides. That work is the work of finding ways for people to come together to really create and be what Dr. (Martin Luther) King called the “beloved community.” That’s not just some utopian ideal. That, frankly, is the difference between life and death for the world. The choice is ours: chaos or community.

Q: In what ways do you see yourself continuing the work of your predecessor, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori?

A: She has led this church and has led us as bishops in ways that are genuinely collaborative but also in ways that have called us to the kind of spiritual maturity where we can be honest with each other, where we can engage our differences and where we can work toward solutions and resolutions that actually can work for us all. I would hope to continue that good work and kind of build on what she has done.

Q: You emphasize that both evangelism and social justice are really important. Is there any way to say which one is more important to you?

A: No, because the same Jesus who said “go make disciples of all nations” is the same Jesus who said “as you did it to the least of these who are my brothers and sisters you have done it to me.” They’re all part of the same package. Matthew 25 and 28 are both in the same Gospel.

Q: You are known for your preaching that includes elements of the style of the black church. How does that fit in the Episcopal Church, which people might think of as being kind of staid?

A: The Episcopal Church, which is part of the Anglican world, this is the same church that gave the world Desmond Tutu, and so we’re quite a diverse group. I think one of the beautiful things about our church — and that I hope will be more true — is that it really is in fact a church of many voices. And all those voices come together around that shared vision of a world transformed by the love of God.

Q: You have been supportive of LGBT rights and same-sex marriage. How will you reach those in your denomination and the worldwide Anglican Communion who differ from you about these issues?

A: As a bishop here in North Carolina, I have worked hard to make sure that in this church there is, as the old slaves used to say, “plenty good room, plenty good room in my Father’s kingdom.” And there will always be room and not just room — a real place for all of us. As presiding bishop I’ll continue to do the same thing. I will continue to reach out in faith and goodwill. I really do believe that when Jesus said “go make disciples of all nations,” “all” really meant all. That means traditionalists and progressives.

Q: Do you foresee any possibility of winning back any of the U.S. churches that have split off from the Episcopal Church, especially over this issue of LGBT rights?

A: I wouldn't say "winning back" would be a way to phrase it. I think in the great scheme of the love of God we can't even dream of what is possible. I'm willing to plant myself on the side of the love of God and my experience in life is that when you do that, you're trusting in God to find a way that you might not even be able to envision.

Chuckles: Not particularly religious but thought I would send it along anyway....

(provided by April Collett, from St. Mark's)

If you're not familiar with the work of Steven Wright, he's the famous erudite (and comic) scientist who once said: "I woke up one morning, and all of my stuff had been stolen and replaced by exact duplicates." His mind sees things differently than most of us do. ... Here are some of his gems:

- 1 - I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2 - Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- 3 - Half the people you know are below average.
- 4 - 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5 - 82.73% of all statistics are made up on the spot.
- 6 - A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
- 7 - A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 8 - If you want the rainbow, you have to put up with the rain.
- 9 - All those who believe in psycho kinesis, raise my hand.
- 10 - The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- 11 - I almost had a psychic girlfriend, but she left me before we met.
- 12 - OK; so what's the speed of dark?
- 13 - How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
- 14 - If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- 15 - Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- 16 - When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 17 - Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
- 18 - Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off - now.
- 19 - I intend to live forever... So far, so good.
- 20 - If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- 21 - Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- 22 - What happens if you get scared half to death - - twice?
- 23 - My mechanic told me: "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
- 24 - Why do psychics have to ask you for your name.
- 25 - If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
- 26 - A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.
- 27 - Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
- 28 - The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.
- 29 - To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- 30 - The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- 31 - The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- 32 - The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
- 33 - Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.
- 34 - If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

And the all-time favorite -

- 35 - If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?

WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN WHEN WE PRAY?

(provided by April Collett, from St. Mark's)

This is one of the nicest e-mails I have seen:

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, 'This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received.'

I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section, my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed.

"How is it that there is no work going on here? I asked."

"So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings? "I asked.

"Simple," the angel answered. Just say, "Thank you, Lord."

"What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked.

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy, and if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity."

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness.. You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day."

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... You are ahead of 700 million people in the world."

"If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world."

"If your parents are still alive and still married.... you are very rare."

"If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair....."

"Ok," I said. "What now? How can I start?"

The Angel said, "If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all."

Have a good day, count your blessings, and if you care to, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.....

November 2015 Monthly Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 1 10am Holy Communion 7pm AA	2	3 7pm AA	4 10am Bible Study 12pm Monte Ministerial Association Meeting	5 12pm AA 7pm Gamblers Anon	6 7pm AA	7
8 10am Holy Communion 7pm AA	9	10 9:30am Worship Team 7pm AA	11 10am Bible Study	12 12pm AA 7pm Gamblers Anon	13 4pm Diocesan Convention 7pm AA	14
15 10am Healing Service 7pm AA	16	17 7pm AA	18 10am Bible Study	19 12pm AA 7pm Gamblers Anon 7pm Monte Ecum Thansgiving	20 7pm AA	21
22 10am Holy Communion 7pm AA	23	24 2pm Birthday Party @ Monte Health & Rehab 7pm AA	25 10am Bible Study	26 12pm AA 7pm Gamblers Anon	27 7pm AA	28
29 10am Holy Communion 7pm AA	30	December 1 7pm AA	2 10am Bible Study 12pm Monte Ministerial Association Meeting 6:30pm Bishop Committee	3 12pm AA 7pm Gamblers Anon	4	

Birthdays:

John Fry—13th Wanda Wahl—18th

Eric Heikinen—25th Robert & Rev. Lorraine Dierick—4th

Anniversaries:

December 2015 Monthly Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	30	December 1 <u>7pm AA</u>	2 <u>10am Bible Study</u> <u>12pm Monte Ministerial Association Meeting</u> <u>6:30pm Bishop Committee</u>	3 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	4 <u>7pm AA</u>	5
6 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	7	8 <u>7pm AA</u>	9 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	10 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	11 <u>7pm AA</u>	12
13 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	14	15 <u>7pm AA</u>	16 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	17 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	18 <u>7pm AA</u>	19
20 <u>10am Healing Service</u> <u>11am Decorate Church</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	21	22 <u>2pm Birthday Party @ Monte Health & Rehab</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	23 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	24 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>5pm Christmas Eve Service</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	25 <u>7pm AA</u>	26
27 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	28	29 <u>7pm AA</u>	30 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	31 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>7pm Gamblers Anon</u>	January 1	2

Birthdays:

Corby Varness--5th Elaine Olsen—14th

Anniversaries:

John & Mary Linth—10th

October 31, 2015

To Everyone In Our St. Mark's Church Community,

In 2015, our lives continue with another year of worship and ministry opportunities at St. Mark's. As always, your energy and commitment to our mission moves it ahead, with God's grace, into new ways to be church and ministers of God's love.

Our facility continues to be used not only for our weekly worship services, Bible studies, and other special functions, but also by several Alcohol and Gamblers Anonymous groups, and is available for weddings, funerals and receptions. We even offered our facility for use by the Montesano Community Center for their activities, prior to their working out the purchase and renovation of the old bank building next to the Beehive Restaurant.

We celebrated our 105th and another successful Pancake Day celebration this year (with some excellent support from the good people at the Montesano Church of God and the Methodist Church), and several church calendar events, including the ecumenical Good Friday service.

Our church website continues, with added content/information for those who read it, both in and outside of our church. You can and should use this site for all of your church informational needs. Look at our site at: www.stmarksmonte.com

To say thanks is not enough for the work of our priests, Rev. Lorraine Dierick and Rev. Bonnie Campbell, for everything they do for the worship and pastoral care aspects of the church, including their weekly visits with the people in Montesano Health & Rehab, and with those women in the Grays Harbor County Jail.

The Rev. Sarah Monroe, our former seminarian and now ordained Episcopal Priest, is serving locally leading Chaplains on the Harbor, based in Aberdeen and Westport. This ministry involves providing food, other supplies, and listening and prayer support for the street folks and homeless camp called River City on Wednesdays midday each week, and a large Bible study and meal on Sunday evenings (up to 100 people) at St. Andrews. St. Mark's provides the meal every 6 weeks for the Sunday evening gatherings, and also has Sarah preside/preach every 6 weeks here while providing a monthly \$\$ donation for the COH ministry. In Westport, a new community has formed in the old St. Christopher's church building, where food is served every Thursday for lunch, and other special events are starting. Food, clothing and \$\$ donations are always gratefully appreciated for this ministry.

Our worship experience on Sunday morning continues to be refined, with a variety of services each month, and we thank the worship team for their consistent efforts to make the services meaningful each week.

We thank everyone at St. Mark's for your generosity and commitment to do all of the everyday ministries that make our community vital and healthy.

Our community outreach budget for this year will be more than \$6,000 out of our 2015 annual operating budget of about \$25,500. Ministries funds distributed to so far or planned for in 2015:

<i>Coastal Harvest (GH Food Dist Center)</i>	<i>Chaplains on the Harbor</i>
<i>Domestic Violence Center</i>	<i>Willapa Region Ministry</i>
<i>Nursing Home Birthday Cakes</i>	<i>Camp Michael</i>
<i>Children's Advocacy Center</i>	<i>Montesano Food Bank</i>
<i>Camp Victory</i>	<i>Montesano Community Center</i>
<i>Montesano High School/Invest Ed (needy kids)</i>	<i>GH PAWS and Freedom Tails programs</i>
<i>Monte-Elma Food Bowl</i>	

Other special offerings collected for outreach: (about \$600, plus purchased items)

We continue to ask you to please think and pray about how God has blessed you this year, and what St. Mark's church and its community of people mean to you, and decide to commit (either for the first time, or to continue and maybe increase your commitment) to St. Mark's and its work for Christ in this community for 2016. Our Bishop Greg Rickel has stated that it is very important that each person who professes they are a member of a church to sign a card expressing that commitment, regardless of the \$\$ amount they might decide to pledge. At St. Mark's, we hope you will consider this carefully and officially commit to support our ministry here. Any \$\$ commitment can be changed if needed during the year, simply by contacting the treasurer.

The commitment card that follows this letter makes it very easy to show your commitment; we will be gathering these cards and giving thanks for all commitments at our worship service on November 29th, the Sunday after Thanksgiving Day. (Print out the card, fill out and bring in—or ask for one when at the church.)

We believe the congregation of St. Mark's is blessed by God, and we pray and hope to continue to serve our community well with our money, time, and talents in 2016.

Your St. Mark's Bishop's Committee

John Tennefoss, Sr. Warden
Jim Campbell, Jr. Warden & Treasurer
Martha Krug, Clerk of the Bishop Committee
Rev. Joyce Avery, Bishop Committee
Kevin Varness, Bishop Committee
Gail Rolfe, Bishop Committee
Rev. Lorraine Dierick, Priest
Rev. Bonnie Campbell, Priest

Time and Talent Commitment

Please write your first name and last name (especially in the case of couples or families) to indicate ministries of interest to you.) *We will contact you as soon as possible after pledge cards are tallied.*

Acolyte or Eucharistic Minister _____
Altar Guild _____
Usher/Greeter/Assist Newcomers _____
Children's Church/Sunday School _____
Host Coffee Hour/Provide Treats _____
Pastoral Care/Visits _____
Prayer Request/List _____
Building/Grounds Maintenance _____
Newsletters/Event Advertising _____
Website Support _____
Bible Study _____
Worship Planning _____
Bishop Committee _____
Convention Delegate/Alternate _____

Thank you for your support of St. Mark's through your contributions of time, talent, and treasure.

Treasure Commitment

This financial pledge is used to support St. Mark's Operating Budget.

Name (s) _____

I/We will give a total of \$ _____ to next year's operating budget.

I/We will honor this commitment as indicated below:

Check enclosed for \$ _____
One Payment on _____ (date) _____
Weekly Payments of \$ _____
Monthly Payments of \$ _____
Quarterly Payments of \$ _____

I have included St. Mark's in my estate planning.

(This pledge may be changed or cancelled upon notice to the church treasurer.)

The treasurer will remove and retain the treasure portion of this form; your pledge of time & talent will be gratefully shared with the Bishop Committee and Worship Team.

What does “stewardship mean?”

- It’s about listening to God and reflecting on what we hear...
- It’s how we respond to God’s abundant gifts to us...
- It’s a part of thoughtful and proactive choices we make for the future of our church...
- It’s part of who we want to be as a community of Christians...
And, in its best sense, it is both thanksgiving and celebration.

Stewardship is: “All we do, with all we have, all of the time!”

St. Mark Episcopal Church



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**St. Mark Episcopal Church
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