

Cross Currents



Volume 3 Issue 125

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

March 2015

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Daylight-Saving Times Begins on March 8



Be sure to set your clock ahead before you go to bed on March 7.

The "offensiveness" of the Gospel

More and more people are claiming the right not to be offended and using that supposed right as a means to censor speech and shape ideology, morality, and ethics. In some cases, this has been achieved with violence, e.g., the beheading of Egyptian Christians, the murders of staff members of the French publication by Islamists who were "offended" by the publication's caricatures of Mohammed and Islam; such murderous rampages born of those Muslims' supposed right not to have their prophet Mohammed made fun of is now almost a daily occurrence.

Many groups besides Islamists assert this supposed right with the goal of normalizing what has been aberrant or criminal. They try to shame and coerce others into agreeing with them by branding words they find disagreeable as offensive, inappropriate, racist, sexist, etc. and those who use such words as insensitive, racist, sexist, homophobes, etc., claiming to have been offended by "trigger" words or phrases that supposedly elicited traumatic memories or just made them feel uncomfortable.

Some of the alleged "offensive" words or phrases may have had regrettable origins but which objectionable meanings have been forgotten, and the "offending" parties using them do so without any malicious intent. Other words have had "offensive" meanings imposed on them by the same people who then take offense as a tool to restrict their use.

For example, because some might be offended or claimed to have been offended:

* City University of New York bans the use of "Mr." and "Ms." by professors and staff



Message from Pastor Chu

- * Politicians.
 - universities, and many try to censor the term "illegal alien/immigrant,"
- * Seattle's Office of Civil Rights bans government workers and documents from using "brown bag" and "citizen"
- * Washington Redskins are being pressured to stop using "Redskins" as their team name
- * Professors at UCLA and Harvard law schools feel compelled to steer clear of certain exam questions and discussion topic in law school classes

Everyone has the right to feel whatever they feel, whether or not the alleged damage against them is real or perceived. They have a right to their emotions. Question is, "Do their emotions and supposed right not to be offended trump everyone's rights?"

This culture of "offendedness" or supposed right not to be offended presents a challenge to Christians and the proclamation of the Word of God, especially if we've bought into the notion that to say or do something that might "offend" someone is one of the great sins of our time.

How do we not offend people if we are going to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ when the Gospel is offensive to sinners? Jesus Christ claims to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life, meaning, Jesus is it. There is no other Savior. He calls us to proclaim the Gospel, yet proclaiming that Gospel will offend many.

(Continued on page 2, Offensive)

Offensive (Continued from page 1)

Will we stand on, and speak, the Word of God even though many will be offended? Or would we rather offend God by not speaking the Good News of Christ Crucified and pointing to Him as the only Savior from sin and eternal death?

Paul writes in 1Corinthians 1: ²¹...It pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block [that which gives offense] to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Likewise, we preach the Law of God. We call sin what it is by pointing out what God calls sins, though many will find that offensive. We stare evil in the face and condemn it for what it is: evil.

Jesus Himself talks about the "offensiveness" of His Word to those who do not believe. "And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." (Matthew 11:6, cf. Luke 7:23) "Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" (Matthew 15:12. For additional examples of Jesus or the Word of God as offensive to sinners, see also John 8:31-28; Acts 17:2-7; Romans 9:33; Galatians 5:11; 1Peter 2:8)

I am not suggesting that we go out of our way to offend people with the Word of God, but we should not shy from speaking both Law and Gospel. Because there is salvation from sin only by God's grace through faith in Christ crucified, we speak unequivocally and unapologetically the Word of God; we call sin what God's Word calls sin and we point all to Christ crucified as the Incarnate Son of God who died on the cross to atone for the sin of the world and arose from the dead to give us victory over death.

Speak God's Law and proclaim the Gospel of Christ crucified. God's Word will do what He sends it to do: to condemn sin, convict sinners, and bring many to saving faith in Jesus Christ.



March 29 Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion with Holy Communion at 9:30AM Palm Sunday Dinner at 11:45AM

April 2 Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion at 7:00 PM

April 3 Good Friday worship ser vices at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM

April 5 Easter Sunday with Holy Communion at 10:00PM

- Easter Breakfast at 8:30AM
- * Egg Hunt at 9:30AM



Wednesday at 7:00PM

March 4, 11, 18

PALM SUNDAY DINNER

The third annual Palm Sunday dinner will be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, March 29 at 11:45 AM. Please sign up on the bulletin board and invite your friends. All the money made will go toward the Parking Lot Fund. There will be special desserts!!! Don't miss this event.

Melarie, The Kitchen Queen!!

March Choir Schedule



CHOIR REHEARSALS will be on March 3, 10, 17, and 31. (No rehearsal March 24.)

The March 31 rehearsal will start at **7:00** pm.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



(
	Birthdays		
1	Terry Maurer		
	Idalene Stadler		
6	Cal Kallsen		
11	Kamryn Coyne		
	Sue Reiter		
12	Pastor Chu		
14	Dave Collett		
18	Rachel Gemar		
23	Jean Eissner		
24	Chery Jakel-Collett		
24	Jack Mortenson		
25	Nathan Pass		
30	Doris Mortenson		
Anniversaries			
4	Eric Ingle & Dr.		
	Rayna Kamerzell		
7	Rev. Bob and		
	Gerda Koch		
19	Glen and Susan		
	Stenson		
26	Jack and Doris		
	Mortenson		

Nifty Fifty Seniors March Activities

New Lim's Seafood Restaurant - March 13 2015

We plan on two outing for March..Both eating lunch out at places I have never eaten at, but come highly recommended by members of your Senior Board.....The first is Lunch at New Lim's Garden Seafood Restaurant located at 4340 Clayton Road Concord Ca. 94521. New Lim's is basically a Chinese restaurant with a menu that includes items such as walnut prawns, salt baked asparagus, squid, stuffed eggplant, steamed fish and Hong Kong noodles. They also have deep fried sole that is one of their specials. One of the reviews stated, "My favorite was the deep fried sole. It was nicely fried and the sauce was delicious. I have ordered this a couple of times and it is my favorite fish in the area". I have always gone to The Jade Garden in Walnut Creek for my Chinese food as I liked the Kun Po Shrimp, but the past two times I was very dissatisfied. They must have changed management because the shrimp was much smaller and had more batter on it and they had increased the price. I told the waitress and she said I could have it with less batter but that wasn't the real problem. I'm looking forward to trying the food at New Lim's. It's just a short drive down Clayton so we really don't need

to schedule a meet at church. Let's just meet at the restaurant. Lunch reservations as usual will be at 1:00. I do need you to sign up so I can make reservation....See you there....Bring as friend.

Le Cheval Restaurant - March 27 2015

The second outing is at Le Cheval Restaurant located at 1375 N Broadway Walnut Creek Cal 94596 which specializes in Vietnamese Food. Vietnamese cuisine has introduce new Asian flavors to America by incorporating their style of French Chinese and Southeast Asian cooking concepts of preparing wholesome, nutritious and specials dishes that emphasize on quality and flavor. Fresh vegetables, nuts and spices are all essential ingredients of their style of cooking. They believe the key to healthy living is a good nutritional and balanced diet. The Vietnamese cuisine at Le Cheval is tasty, reasonable, and plentiful. The restaurant is popular with Vietnamese Americans as well as locals. I am willing to try different foods at different restaurants. How about you? Meet at church at 12:15 leave at 12:30 Please sign up so we know how many to plan on...even if you go direct...and bring a friend....

Confirmation class meets with Pas-

Confirmation Class Lunch & Lesson at Hunan

ray



to eat and listen to Pastor's lecture! Actually, it wasn't that bad; they all had a big smile on their face afterwards... having class at a restaurant was quite fun after all! ©



Jennifer Rankin and Jessica Holland for the passing of Lee Rankin, Jennifer's mom and Jessica's grandma on February 4, 2015. May our resurrected Lord be with you at this time of sadness and comfort you with the promise of our resur-



rection to come!

3



We had 15 sign up for the lunch at Fiore's Restaurant. One couple some how got the time of the lunch mixed up and arrived at 11:30 instead of at 1:00 which is when we try to schedule most of our lunches which usually is after much of the lunch crowd has left and allows us more latitude in getting separate checks...

I had been there before but had forgotten how really quaint and cozy a restaurant it is. With several areas set aside where a couple could dine and be away from the other dinners. Truly a warm atmosphere with aroma of the intoxicating cuisine. We were greeted by Chef Habib El Jacifi who most gracefully seated us and was there to help us order as I wanted something I wouldn't normally order at just any old restaurant. Pat Kroeger (who is a regular customer) had no trouble ordering an exotic meal. I ordered what Habib recommended me, the Penne Puttanesca, Salmon with fresh tomatoes, capers and kalamata olives cooked in a spicy tomato sauce. It was delicious! The portion were adequate but not huge so you had room for desert if you so desired. It certainly was a delightful lunch outing. Some place where you would take your lady friend (or boy friend) for a memorable lunch...A real treat for

Seniors Enjoyed "The Imitation Game" and Lunch at Mimi's our church group.

-Marv Kreitz



In February, we were again blessed to have 15 members attended the Show, The Imitation Game and Lunch at Mimi's and what a really enjoyable outing it was...Everyone except Bill Luker and I, went either direct to the show or to Mimi's but all had signed up so I could make reservations and we had a nice table at Mimi's.

The Movie was 114 Minutes or almost two hours and it was as exciting at the end as when it started...The show was about WWII British Intelligence Agency recruited a brilliant young mathematician from Cambridge to head an operation to decipher the unbreakable codes of Nazi Germany's WWII Enigma Machine which helped the allies win the second World War. The whole undercover operation disbanded after the war and was never revealed until fifty years later. Much of their work was the forerunner of the modern computer. This was one of the best movies I have seen in ages. If you like intrigue and History, go see it. The meal at Mimi's was fun and everyone was having a good time as there had to be ten different conversations going on at the same time..and the food as always was excellent....Don't miss our next outing and bring a friend...— Marv Kreitz



March 2015 – What's Happening with the WoHC? by Joyce Liebe

The Women of Holy Cross were busy with several activites in **February**:

We started out the month with a <u>Bites For Mites Bake Sale</u>. Several busy bakers contributed goodies that our HC members quickly purchased. Thanks to Idalene Stadler's coordination & everyone's participation, we raised \$316 that will help us meet our mission grant goals for the 2014-2016 biennium (see list of <u>2014 – 2016 LWML CNH MISSION GRANTS</u>).

that will be used to spread God's love to people in need through LWML CNH mission grant projects in our District & through organizations in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

February's General Meeting was attended by close to 20 WoHC! After a short Business Meeting & delicious cupcakes made by Carol Lau & Dee Jakel, we revealed this past year's Secret Pals & choose new ones. Then we moved onto a fun craft led by Cherylene Brueckner – making Prayer Boxes out of the donated Altiod tins. Each Prayer Box is so cute & unique! You can get your own if you attend the Spring Zone Rally in April.

Lastly, we hosted the <u>Ash Wed. Dinner.</u> We had several tables of folks enjoying dinner & fellowship prior to our Ash Wed. Evening Service. Only a couple of pieces were left of the 6 large/family size pizzas we served. The pizza went well with the salad Melarie Seidel made & the beverages Judy West brought. Surprisingly there was room for the dessert Sue O'Malley & Cherylene Brueckner made. Special recognitions to the set up & clean-up crew – primarily Idalene Stadler, Grace Gin, Gayle Bothe, Pat Easby. Lastly, thanks to all who attended & made a donation, we added \$101 to our Parking Lot Fund.

Our March activities include:

Monday, 3/2. Board Mtg. – 2:30pm Holy Cross Conference Room our Board Meetings are open to all, please feel free to join us.

Monday, 3/9. General Mtg, Election of Officers, & WoHC Travel Log – 6:30pm Holy Cross Parish Hall "Where in the World Have You Been?" is the theme this month. All WoHC are encouraged to come & share one of your "destinations". Tell us what made it special. Feel free to bring a souvenir to help tell your story. It doesn't have to be an exotic adventure in a faraway land. Something close to home can be just as exciting! This is a great opportunity to get to know the Women of Holy Cross. We will also have a short Business Meeting that will include elections for: VP & Treas. + 1 year as Secretary.

Another reminder to please mark your calendar & invite your family/ friends to our <u>LWML Zone 7 Spring Rally</u>, <u>Sat.</u>, <u>4/25 – 8:30am</u>. <u>Holy Cross is the host</u>, so the commute isn't far. Look for sign-up sheet & more details this month.

Remember to check the WoHC bulletin board & Sunday bulletins for more details on these & all activities. Sign up & join us. Please feel free to contact me or any of the Board if you have questions, comments, or suggestions.

Blessings, Joyce Liebe

Where in the World Have You Been?

MILPITAS * PARIS * LONDON * SAN FRANCISCO * NEW YORK SYDNEY * TO-KYO * LIMA * LOCKE

This is the theme of our March Women of Holy Cross general meeting. Where have <u>you</u> been, and what experiences did you have that you want to share?

Did you visit the Holy Land?
Did you trace Luther's steps
in Europe?
Did you honeymoon at Niagara Falls?
Did you search out an old
cemetery in rural Kansas
tracing family roots?
Did you go camping in Yosemite National Park?
Did you do a day trip to the
Oakland Zoo with your children or grandchildren?

Come share one of your most memorable "destinations" with us. Bring a souvenir to help tell your story. We all have a special place we have been that we can share. It doesn't have to be an exotic adventure in a far away land. Something close to home can be just as exciting!

This is a great opportunity to get to know the women at Holy Cross. Plan to join us on Monday, March 9th, at 6:30 pm for fun, food, and fellowship. We will also have a short business meeting, including election of officers. Serving on the WoHC Board can also be a "destination"! The journey is very inexpensive, and the travel companions are simply wonderful!

Where in the world have **you** been???

YOSEMITE * MUIR WOODS * FRESNO *
MT. SHASTA * YELLOWSTONE * NASHVILLE * BLACK DIAMOND MINES

Cherylene
Brueckner, WoHC
hostess for the
March meeting



Outreach to the Needy

Sunday, February 22, 2015

~Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow~

Sue & Kenny Reiter, Pat E & Denise Kruft (friend) met at the Parish Hall on Saturday evening (Voters Meeting on Sun). They put together seven turkey casseroles! Preparing a lunch for 100 servings for Outreach Sunday at the shelter. Sunday morning we baked the casseroles & breads, & packed everything for Luker to transport. It was a beautiful sunny day when we arrived at the shelter. We could see that we would be serving less people; because they go to town or church when it's nice outside.

Carol Lau led us in prayer. Mike Voss served casserole, Brandon served salad. Carol Voss (Mike's mom) served Melarie's wonderful pea soup, big hit and Mindy, gravy & hot bread. Kiley, Annah, & Bill Luker, assisted the clients with food & drinks & passed out cookies and candy! We h a d a f u n t i m e. Brandon is now a pro at serving salad! ©GOOD JOB® THANK YOU to ALL THAT SERVE OUR LORD!

We talked with some "guests" that have been clean & sober for 6-14 months. They are waiting for a place to live. They have money saved for monthly rents; now, they need to save for their deposits which they said would take quite a while. We also saw & talked with one of our regular old friends that we fed at the park. He had aged so much it took me a few minutes to recognize him. He recognized Carol Lau and I, and started talking. He'd had several bicycle accidents and was badly injured he then broke his back & was hospitalized for months. He is in the shelter for therapy & recuperation. Others have jobs, but they don't make enough money for extras or rent. Please keep them in your prayers. and thank you for your support.! Blessings, Pat Easby

Those who are in need of our prayers:

Sue Saalfeld, Muriel Strieter (hospice care), Joy Parker (Gayle Bothe's sister-healing), Wanda Schwartz, Dorothy Taylor. David Grandt (Liz Aduan's brother), Inge Stone, Elizabeth Bothé (Gayle Bothe's granddaughter, non-churched), Abbi and Alex Roman, June Stewart (Judy West's friend-fainting), Jan Tammiste (Roman's nephewbrain injury, healing), Betty and Cal Kallsen, Jeannine Godsey (inner peace), Steven Liedtke (healing), Esther Lacey and Bernice Aiman (Violet Griffin's sisters-elder care), Matt Goodshaw (Brueckner's family friendcontinued multiple myeloma, Maddie Conklin (Judy West's friend-lung, pancreatic cancer), Bob Oliver (healing), Herbert and Clara Huppert (Herbertheart, kidney healing, guidance), Bill Bothe (successful radiation treatments), Julie Oback (Diana Meux sister-cancer, healing), Andrew Gamble (Gamble's grandson-juvenile arthritis), Bob Hartman, Blake Frances (Bill Luker's grand nephew-chemo, brain cancer), Helen Wehmeyer (Kroeger's family friend-stroke/ heart attack, healing), Adrienne Marchand Brown (Carrie Kroeger's friend-successful chemo treatments), Betty Kuss (Pat Easby's cousin-leukemia, comfort for her and family), Suzanne Stadler (chemo treatment, healing), Lorna Meintzer (Eyona's daughter-physical therapy, healing), Hannah Mc Shane (Judy West's granddaughtersurgery recovery and results), Michael Mewhinney (Ann Caruso's brother-prostate cancer -wisdom, treatment and healing),

(Continued on page 8, prayers)

<u>2014 – 2016 LWML CNH MISSION GRANTS</u> (TOTAL \$125,000)

- Water Filters for Kenyan Communities Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Rocklin, CA. \$6,000 PAID
- Outreach in Public Schools for Bible Clubs During Lunch & After School St Paul Lutheran Church & LWML, Merced, CA \$5,000 PAID
- Outreach to Chico State/Butte College Students -Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chico, CA. \$2,200 PAID
- Bibles for the Unchurched, Impoverished Children, Teens & Adults of Kaneohe, Hawaii Malia Maleko LWML of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Kaneohe, HI. \$5.500 PAID
- Joy of Harvest Ministries Mission To The Southeast Asian Community in Northern California Rev. Kou Seuying, St Paul Lutheran, Merced, CA. \$20,000 PAID
- Fresh Water storage for Cambodian Trinity Lutheran Church & School Battambang Trinity Lutheran Church, Stockton, CA \$4,300 FUNDED
- Safe place to Play For Children/Families Outreach Ministry – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hayward, CA. \$12,000 FUNDED
- Outreach Expansion to People with Developmental Disabilities – Bethesda Lutheran Communities, Redding, CA. \$1,500 FUNDED
- Helping Hands: Reaching Out to Families with Free Clothes & Christian Children's Books Trinity Lutheran, Redding, CA. \$4,900 \$3000 funded so far
- Angels Nest Child Development Center, Safety & Growth - Angels Nest Child Development Center Green haven Lutheran Church, Sacramento, CA \$7 500
- 11. Kyrgyzstan Medical Van Project LCMS Office of International Mission, St Louis, MO. \$10,000
- 12. Spiritual & Nutritional Community Outreach Program First Lutheran Church, Yuba City, CA. \$5,000
- Graduate Studies for International Lutheran Leaders at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. \$5,000
- Expanding Outreach to Native Americans on The Olympic Peninsula in Washington- Lutheran Indian Ministries \$5.000
- Technology to Overcome Distance Issues Alaska Mission for Christ \$3,500
- 16. Shoe Box Ministry Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA. \$1,000
- Brownsville Lutheran Church Mountain Quilt Guild -Brownsville Lutheran Church, Browns Valley, CA. \$3,000
- Support Teenage Mothers & Victims of Sexual Abuse in Cameroon - West Africa, Lutheran Hour Ministries \$3,000
- Enhancing Sustainable Food Security & Income Generating Activities For the Vulnerable Children at Christian Rescue Centre Diakonia Compassionate Ministry \$11,090
- Increase Capacity for Lutheran Human Care & Evangelism Community Outreach Ministry Endeavor First Immanuel Lutheran Church, San Jose, CA. \$6,500
- 21. Funding for Sexuality Event Lutherans for Life, Sacramento, CA (partial of \$5,000 grant) \$3,010 ⊕



March 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Mite Box /Hat Day 9:30a Worship / Holy Communion 11a Senior Brunch Outing- Grand Island Mansion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	2 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 2:30p WoHC Board Mtg 7p Boy Scout (H)	3 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	4 7p Bible Study (H)	5	6	7
8 Daylight-Saving Times 9:30am Worship w/ Holy Communion & Rite of Con- firmation (Jordan Ballard, Austin Haven) 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	9 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 6:30p WoHC General Meeting 7p Boy Scout (L)	10 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	11 1p Senior Brd (L) 7p Bible Study (H)	12	13 1p Senior Lunch Outing @ New Lim's	14
15 9:30a Worship / Holy Communion 11am Sunday School/ Bible Study 12p Confirmation 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	16 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 12:30p Bridge 6:30p Church Council 7p Boy Scout (H)	17 6:30p Elders 7:15p Choir Rehearsal	18 7p Bible Study (H)	19	20 Spring Begins	21
22 9:30a Worship 10:30a Outreach 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	23 12:30p Wm Bible Study(C) 7p Boy Scout (H)	24	25	26	27 12:15p Senior Lunch Outing- Car- pool to Le Cheval	28
29 9:30am Palm Sunday/ Sunday of the Passion with Holy Communion 11a Sunday School/Bible Study 11:45 AM Palm Sunday Dinner 2-6p Myanmar Christian(H)	30 12:30p Wm Bible Study (C) 7p Boy Scout (H)	31 <u>7:00p</u> Choir Rehearsal	Notes: cl= Choir Loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg, H=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room			



1092 Alberta Way Concord, CA 94521



Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS 1092 Alberta Way Concord, CA 94521 (925) 686-2000 holycrossconcord@sbcglobal.net Www.ctsmemberconnect.net

Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka

Pastor: Bill Chu

President: Mike Liebe

Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger
Financial Secretary: Scott Stadler
Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka
Head Trustee: Allen Brueckner
Elders: Bill Riechman, George Oatis,
John Coyne, Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Sue Reiter Newsletter Editor: Grace Gin

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Service 9:30AM

Communion 1st, 3rd, and 5th

Sundays

Adults Bible Studies 11AM (Library &

Conf. Rm)

Sunday School 11AM

Week Day Bible Study Schedule:

Monday (Ladies) 12:30PM Conf. Rm

Wednesday (all) 7:00PM Parish Hall

Choir Rehearsal:

Tuesday 7:15PM—8:45PM

Outreach: Fourth Sunday of each month

after service

Publication Deadline:

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

April 2015 Cross Currents: March 20,

2015

Office Hours: M-F 9 AM-12:30 PM

Prayers (Continued from page 6)

Linda Pass (healing), Jack Mortenson (healing), Herb Neumann (healing), Terry Hawkyard (healing), Will Voertman (healing), Christine Roesch (Trudy's sister in law-hip surgery, healing).

Chaplains among the armed forces and those serving in the military:

Taylor Bothe-Yates (Gayle Bothe's grand-niece, Texas), Capt. Richard Hill (Violet Griffin's great nephew), Cadet Megan Gemar, PFC Kevin Hayworth (Glenda's grandson-Hawaii), Lt. JG Aaron Bell, Navy Chaplain CB Unit, Gulport, MS (Rev. & Sherry Bell's son), Joshua Gonzales (Carol L.'s neighbor-Iraq), P.O.W. and M.I.A.'s.