

# The King's Call

## Every Heart a Manger

A cartoon from a few years ago showed a woman saying to her husband, "Good grief, Henry. Here's Christmas at our throats again!"

Amid the preparations for Christmas each year, there always seem to be a few voices like hers, proclaiming "Bah, humbug!" on the whole business. And if the truth be known, some of us may feel less excited about Christmas each time it rolls around. The expense, the crowds, the overindulgence, the hurried schedules and all the other trappings of modern Christmas celebrations are enough to make all of us take a jaundiced look at the season.

In the face of the humbug state of affairs, it is helpful to remember that God did not send Jesus to be "at our throats," but to be "in our hearts." The difference between those two pictures defines the gap between gloom and glory. There's a reason we call the gospel GOOD news. As John so aptly put it, "For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17).

Jesus is God's gift to our world and He makes our hearts His home. Our hearts become linked with the Christmas story in a very storied kind of way. Every heart becomes a manger where gentle Mary lays her child and where Angels and Shepherds bear Witness to that life changing gift. What a Mercy of God that he would make our hearts His home. In doing this God unites His life with our Life Together. When Jesus resides within, whether we enjoy or merely tolerate the flurry of seasonal preparations, Christmas itself is a grand opportunity to say thank you to God for this Witness, this Mercy, and this Life Together that we have in the gift of His Son.

In the light of that, we are planning some great programs and opportunities to thank God together for the priceless gift of Jesus: Each Wednesday through Advent (November 30, December 7 & 14) we will have Advent Services at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. with a Fellowship Supper at 6:00 p.m. We will focus on Witness, Mercy, and Life Together through the books of Matthew and Luke. We will also have a special weekend on December 17-18 when our Graceland children will present their Christmas program: "The Christmas Present." It will be presented at all our services for the weekend. For a complete Advent Schedule please see the back of the calendar of your newsletter.

Please join us as we seek to celebrate Christmas in our hearts.

In God's Peace,  
*Pastor Robert*  
Senior Pastor, Christ the King

## A Merry and Subversive Xmas

Yes, I said, "Xmas." No, I'm not taking Christ out of Christmas. "X" is the Greek letter "chi" (pronounced "key") which is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ. Actually, quite a bit of religious art work is decorated with the "chi" or "chi-rho" (the P is the Greek letter "rho"). This "chi" might be able to unlock some opportunities for witness this holiday season.

Yes, I said "holiday season." No, I'm not changing the name of Christmas (or Xmas) or trying to water down my Christian witness. Rather, I want to meet people where they are. The conversation might go something like this. "Happy holidays." "Don't you mean 'Merry Christmas'?!? That's what it is you know; we're celebrating Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the season." "Uh, okay. Have a good day."

Or it could go a little something like this. "Happy holidays." "You know, people celebrate all kinds of holidays. Are you celebrating a holiday this month?" "Yeah, we're going to have Christmas dinner with my wife's family." "If you guys are looking for a place to go to church, we have Christmas Eve services at 3, 5, 7, and 10."

Okay, that's a bit contrived, but you get the point. During this holiday season, many people are more prone to be receptive to religious conversations than at other times throughout the year. So you have a choice. You can close those doors by demanding that people adopt the language and customs of a faith you're not sure that they claim. Or you can open doors by being sensitive, asking questions, or quietly singing Christmas carols.

Seriously, Christmas carols are some of the most subversive songs ever written. People know the melody (which has much of our hymnody beat already). And oftentimes, people even know some of the words. Granted, they probably haven't plumbed the depths and riches of the theology subtly wrapped up in each of the songs, but that's okay.

I don't know what it would look like for you, but I want to give you a gift (I was going to say "challenge" but that didn't seem to fit the Christmas theme I want to promote). The "gift" (actually, "challenge" works better) is this: You will have several opportunities to work Christmas carols into your conversations this month. Maybe they're playing over the ubiquitous sound system at the mall or on an office Pandora playlist. Maybe a line or two is quoted in a classic movie that'll play on broadcast television. You will have several opportunities to work Christmas carols into your conversations this month.

So be ready. I'd recommend reading a few of the stanzas from a song without singing it, or without even thinking of the melody. You'll find that many of the sacred carols are pretty meaty.

Here are just a few lines. "How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n. No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in."

"Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth."

"Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you; Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!"

"Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'"

Justification by means of an imputation of Christ's righteousness; God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God come to redeem (that is, buy back); The Messiah, in His state of humiliation, freely laid aside all His exaltations and took on flesh in order to have that flesh pierced for you; He did it for you and for all people, not to criticize us but to give new birth to every person. Like I said, meaty stuff.

So, "Hark!" Listen. Hear the "seasonal music." But don't be cynical about the generic nature of a commercial Christmas. Rather, allow it to be subversive. And listen for the Spirit's leading. Be ready to make the switch from a covert to an overt operation. The next time you catch someone subconsciously humming an Xmas song, be ready to say, "I love that song. But have you ever thought about the lyrics?"

God's Peace,  
Pastor Dan



Dear CTKn's,

Greeting in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

*"I thank my God every time I remember you". In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now". Philipians 1:3-5*

As you receive your newsletter and begin reading it, Thanksgiving will have come and gone and Advent will be upon us! What a wondrous, thankful and joyful time to be part of the mission and ministry at Christ the King and share the good news with our community through Witness, Mercy and Life Together that the Savior has come!

As we move from Thanksgiving to Advent and Christmas we give thanks to God for the many blessings he has bestowed on this congregation, especially in the gifts of Pastor Bob and Melissa and Pastor Dan and Charlotte! Please join Nancy and I this Christmas season (and always) in giving thanks to God for them and remembering them in your holiday preparations. We also give thanks to the staff at CTK and the CDC for all they do for us and our community and for the ministry they provide.

The Holy Spirit was very active the weekend of November 4<sup>th</sup> as Pastor Lorenz and Denny Langston brought *"Tracking the Spirit"* to CTK. What an exciting weekend as we focused on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives, in our church and in our community. For all who attended, our lives were changed!

Our Policy Based Governance Task Force continues to move forward on developing the right form of governance structure for CTK that will enable and encourage the carrying out of our mission statement and prepare us for growth and the leading of the Holy Spirit. To assist us in our governance work we have engaged Ted Kober and the services of Ambassadors of Reconciliation to work with us the weekend of February 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> in reviewing our current governing style, where we are at as a congregation, what our purpose and vision is and assess the challenges regarding our readiness and ability to move forward in mission and ministry. As we move closer to that weekend we will be sure to let you know more details of the agenda for the consultation.

Our Communications Task Force is beginning their work. Members of the CTF are Pastor Bob, Pastor Dan, Mike C., Greg T., Marcia S., Sarah T., Allison H. and I. The mission of the task force is to review how we currently communicate with one another and our community and develop and implement a comprehensive system and network of connecting and informing all of us on the mission and ministry of CTK.

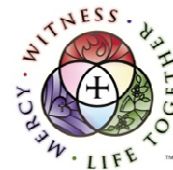
The lighting and table replacement projects are well underway. We need to replace all 24 round and 40 rectangular tables and to do so we need your help as this is an expense outside of our annual budget. Tables replacement costs are \$242 for the round and \$203 for the rectangular ones. We are currently about a third of the way there!

The Northwest District Convention is fast approaching in June of next year and in preparation for that gathering we need to select our delegates to the convention and submit nominations for District President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Inland Empire Regional Vice President and Circuit Counselor. Deadline is Dec 20<sup>th</sup> so we will be scheduling a voters meeting during bible class for the purpose of selecting our delegates and District

nominations.

Blessed Christmas to all! *Michael H.*

*"Do not be afraid for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people! For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you. You will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling close, lying in a manger". Luke 2:10-12*



## Know Your Elders

My name is Scott S. and let me start by saying that it is a *privilege and an honor* to serve on the Board of Elders. I have been a part of Christ the King for the last 25 years and I have to say it has been a wonderful place to be spiritually fed.

In those 25 years I have been a part of a number of different boards—Parish Fellowship, Stewardship, Elders-15 years, Sunday School teacher, youth softball coach and numerous sub committees. This is not a report to say how many things I have done but it is to say that being a member of Christ the King is just that—being involved. I cannot stress enough that a church relies on its membership and we have two great leaders that can put us in the correct direction.

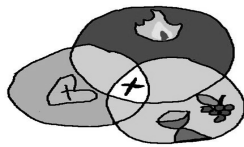
I was born and raised a Lutheran in Fridley, Minnesota- Immanuel Lutheran Grade School, Minneapolis Lutheran High School and Carthage College-Kenosha, WI; I graduated with degrees in Marketing and Business Administration. I have worked for Allstate Insurance Company for the past 25 years in the Claims Department and currently hold the position of Authority Consultant.

Upon arriving in Coeur D'Alene I fell in love with my wife, Kimmy and we were married in 1988. We have 2 children – Samantha Leigh, 21 and Timothy Michael, 20.

Being a part of this community and living in this part of God's country has truly been a blessing; not only do I have a family in faith but I also lots of family by blood with numerous family members living within this area, which offers support no matter what comes my way.

I am a firm believer that Christ the King is "my" church and I plan to be a part of it for another 25 years; by then I may only be assisting with mowing, ushering or greeting you at the door but I will always be apart of Christ the King and it is my prayer that each one of you will take an active part in being a part of "your" Church. As an Elder I would invite you talk to me about what ever is on your mind especially if it is about the MN Vikings (there is always next year). Seriously it is all about serving our Lord and this Church.

*Scott S.*



**GRACELAND**  
WITNESS \* MERCY \* LIFE TOGETHER

**Sunday mornings @ 9:45am!**

Kids from 3 year olds to 5<sup>th</sup> grade please join us for Graceland. We will meet for large group in the gym and then separate into our small groups for a fun and active time of Bible learning.

Here is a look at our Graceland lessons for the month of December! Pre-K & K begin their unit on the birth of Jesus. Their lessons include: Mary and Elizabeth celebrate their part in God's Plan, Jesus is born in Bethlehem and The Angels tell the shepherds of Jesus' birth. First, second & third graders also begin a unit on the birth of Jesus. Their lessons are: Jesus is born in Bethlehem, Angels appear to shepherds and wise men bring gifts to Jesus.



The fourth & fifth grade group will begin their third unit – John 14: A Study of the Holy Spirit. Our big question for this unit is "Who is the Holy Spirit?" They'll learn that the Holy Spirit is our counselor, The Holy Spirit is

truth, the Holy Spirit lives in and with Christians and The Holy Spirit guides us! This unit of lessons will help preteens discover who the Holy Spirit is and some of what he does.

**Mite box collection day is December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

We will collect our mites on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Bring your boxes full of change and we'll empty them and start again!

**There will be no Graceland on Christmas or New Year's Day.**

**"The Christmas Present"**

Rehearsals have begun for this year's Christmas Program called "The Christmas Present!" This musical is basically a poem with wonderful songs set between the lines. We will be performing it for the congregation at all 3 services the week-end of Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. We will also be taking the program to Life Care Center this year!

This is a fun and meaningful program that the kids will enjoy doing. There are lots of songs and speaking parts. I would love as many children as possible to join us for this event.

Rehearsals are Sundays @ 12:30pm and Wednesdays at 5:45pm, (excluding Wed. the 23<sup>rd</sup>) and will wrap up with a dress rehearsal and pizza party on Fri., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm.



Wednesday nights during Advent, dinner will be provided for the kids, separate from the Advent meals, so that we can eat quickly and get started.

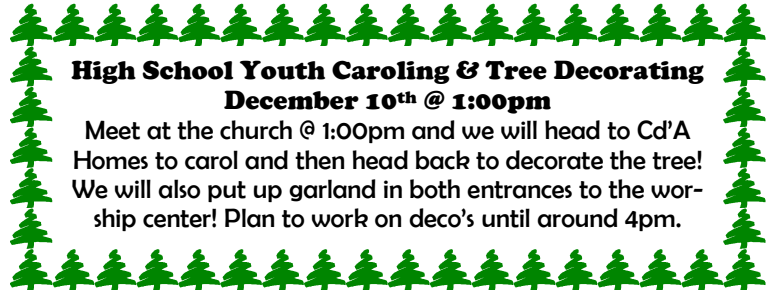
Please come early to Graceland as we will also rehearse our songs at 9:30am before Graceland starts each Sunday!

Please contact Martha H. @ 664-9231 if you have any questions.

**Youth Ministries**

**"S.P.U.D.S." ~ High School Youth Group  
Wednesday from 6-8:00pm**

We continue to meet as a youth group, during Advent, @ 6:00 on Wednesday nights, and enjoy a meal together and then head into worship at 7:00. **We'll meet December 21<sup>st</sup> for our Christmas Party . Sign up to bring food and bring a small gift for our gift exchange!** We will not meet on December 28<sup>th</sup>. We will get back on track with regular youth group, studying the Bible or digging into different topics, on January 4<sup>th</sup>.



**High School Youth Caroling & Tree Decorating  
December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00pm**

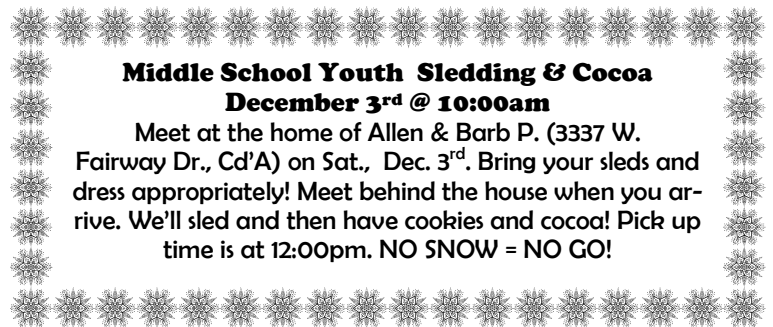
Meet at the church @ 1:00pm and we will head to Cd'A Homes to carol and then head back to decorate the tree! We will also put up garland in both entrances to the worship center! Plan to work on deco's until around 4pm.

**Confirmation**

Confirmation continues from 6:00– 6:50pm on Wednesdays nights. You'll need to eat dinner before you arrive. Confirmands won't be a part of the Advent dinners as they'll be in class with Pastor Bob at that time. We're meeting in the youth room during Advent and will be back in the Fellowship Hall on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. Feel free to come and enjoy dinner on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> (Group leader meeting night.) If you have youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade and would like them to be involved in Confirmation please talk to Pastor Bob.

**"Justified" ~ Middle School Youth Group  
Wednesdays @ 6:50pm**

"Justified" will not meet during Advent, November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, so that the youth can attend Advent services with their families or with each other. **We will meet on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:50pm for our Christmas Party!** Justified will resume on January 11<sup>th</sup>.



**Middle School Youth Sledding & Cocoa  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 10:00am**

Meet at the home of Allen & Barb P. (3337 W. Fairway Dr., Cd'A) on Sat., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bring your sleds and dress appropriately! Meet behind the house when you arrive. We'll sled and then have cookies and cocoa! Pick up time is at 12:00pm. **NO SNOW = NO GO!**

**"Engage" - Sunday from 9:45-10:45am**

Middle School & High School youth are encouraged to take part in "Engage!" on Sunday mornings, in the youth room. Join Melissa for a time to hang out with her and other youth as you study different Bible topics, ask questions and look at how to love and serve God in deeper and more meaningful ways!  
There will be no "Engage" on Christmas or New Year's Day!

1st Sunday of month is Mite Box Sunday at CTK.



# Women in Mission

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) – WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## DECEMBER ACTIVITIES & NOTES

- DEC. COFFEE SERVERS:** Love Circle
- DEC. FUNERAL CHAIR:** Patience Circle
- DEC. CLEANING:** Gloria K., Linda C.

### CIRCLE NEWS

**FAITH CIRCLE:** is gathering toys and blankets to give to Police and Fire Depts. and will be meeting at **Bernie J.'s** home for a Christmas Party/Potluck lunch.

**HOPE EVENING CIRCLE:** put together **96 Christmas Shoeboxes.** (see report below) Hope Circle also contributed shipping funds to the Military Ministry and will meet for a Christmas Dinner Party at **Janene R.**

**LOVE CIRCLE:** No meeting in Dec. They will put together their Christmas Basket for CDA Homes and continue collecting items for Hygiene Kits for the Women's Center.

**PATIENCE CIRCLE:** is gathering at **Joan O.'s** for their annual Christmas Party/Baby Shower for Open Arms Pregnancy Center.

**QUILTERS:** sent 112 quilts, 2 dress packs, 4 baby bundles, 1 blanket, and 10 school kits to Lutheran World Relief on October 21. The school kit backpacks were sewn by **Esther C.** and filled with supplies donated by **Helen M.'s Bible Class.** Thank you for your generous donations.

### INTERESTED IN SEWING?

New sewing classes will begin in the new year if there is enough interest. If you'd like to learn how to sew, contact Joan O., 667-7952.

## QUARTERLY LWML GATHERING

Our Quarterly meeting and potluck was decorated in a patriotic theme and attended by 15 ladies. **Esther C.** and **MaryAnne K.** presented a devotional skit, starring Pricilla Pilgrim and Penny Progress, comparing the first Thanksgiving with today's celebration. Our business included:

**Coeur d'Alene Homes request for gift baskets.** Each Circle will prepare a basket to donate.

Information on the **Family Challenge** – 26 weeks of giving by families, filling a pillow case with items representing something they've denied themselves the use of.

**LWML ADVENT SOUP SUPPER, Dec. 7.** Our ladies will be serving. Donations to help pay for the new sound system in the Worship Center and Fellowship Hall.

**Sunday Coffee Service** – voted to transfer this duty from the Circles to the congregation at the end of our LWML Year in May 2012.

## SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Hope Circle is pleased to report that we sorted and packed **96 CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES!** We are required to open every box to affirm that all items are appropriate and remove any liquids and chocolates, so it's best not to seal the box. We did this in record time with a record number of boxes this year. **THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED - YOU DID A GREAT JOB!**

## Handbells in the Church Year: Advent & Christmas

Ringling bells are synonymous with our cultural concepts of Christmas, but did you know they are also important in Advent? According to scholars of handbell history bells were used to announce the coming of the risen Christ. Advent is a time of preparation for Christ's birth and a celebration of new life in Him. As the *King's Ringers* and the *Belles Ensemble* ring for various services we hope our music will turn your thoughts toward the joy of life in our Savior Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas from all of the King's Ringers! (We are still looking for two more sets of hand to help out in the bass section; could it be you?)



Order your Poinsettias



There are 50 poinsettias available for \$10 each to help decorate the church for Christmas. Order forms are available in the church office. Thank you!


**CHRIST THE KING 2011/2012 BUDGET**

As of October 31, 2011  
33% of Fiscal Year

	Annual Budget	Budget YTD	Year to Date	Actual % of Annual Bgt. to Date
<b>CHURCH REVENUE</b>				
Tithes & Offerings	481,590	158,925	149,959	31.1%
Seasonal Worship Services	27,000	8,910		0.0%
Rental Income	21,000	6,930	5,638	26.8%
Other Income	<u>14,900</u>	<u>4,917</u>	<u>4,842</u>	<u>32.5%</u>
Total CTK Church Income	544,490	179,682	160,439	29.5%
<b>CHURCH EXPENSES</b>				
Administration Expense	382,345	126,174	124,066	32.4%
Elder Expense	13,100	4,323	3,901	29.8%
Outreach	1,000	330	0	0.0%
Child Discipleship	3,325	1,097	710	21.4%
Youth	2,050	677	158	7.7%
Stewardship	51,220	16,903	14,124	27.6%
Property Mgmt.	71,700	23,661	23,284	32.5%
Fellowship	1,300	429	937	72.1%
Fisher Property	5,400	1,782	683	12.6%
Communications	4,050	1,337	1,843	45.5%
Human Care	<u>9,000</u>	<u>2,970</u>	<u>2,313</u>	<u>25.7%</u>
Total CTK Church Expenditures	544,490	179,682	172,019	31.6%
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Total CTK Church Expenditures	<u>544,490</u>	<u>179,682</u>	<u>172,019</u>	31.6%
CHURCH NET REVENUE	0	0	-11,580	

<b>Offerings to God:</b>			
	Budget	Special	Total
10/2/11	13,451.50	747.00	<b>14,198.50</b>
10/9/11	10,101.62	4,353.56	<b>14,455.18</b>
10/16/11	12,081.58	656.50	<b>12,738.08</b>
10/23/11	6,539.03	294.50	<b>6,833.53</b>
10/30/11	9,912.67	292.00	<b>10,204.67</b>

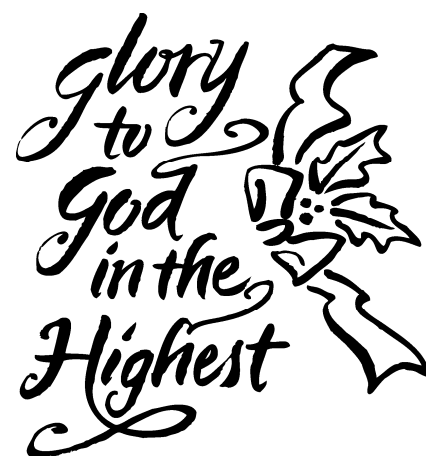
**Shoebox Ministries**  
Wow! Thank you for all of your shoebox efforts. **Ninety-six** children will be blessed by Christian love through these boxes. Please continue to pray for the recipients of these boxes that they will come to know more fully Christ's love.  
*Nola M.*  
—Hope Circle



**CTK CHILDCARE & SCHOOL 2011/2012 BUDGET**

As of October 31, 2011  
33% of Fiscal Year

	Annual Budget	Budget YTD	Year to Date	Actual % of Annual Bgt. to Date
CTK CDC Income	494,350	163,136	153,074	31.0%
CTK CDC Expenditures	<u>494,350</u>	<u>163,136</u>	<u>155,009</u>	31.4%
NET REVENUE	0	0	-1,935	100.00%



I want to thank you at Christ the King for the many ongoing prayers, cards and words of concern and encouragement during my journey with cancer. The outreach from all of you has been amazing. Your kind words were always uplifting and nurturing and greatly appreciated.

I cannot forget to thank you all for the many delicious and healthy meals that were provided to us during my treatments and surgery. What a gift, it was a welcome relief not to have to cook during those recovery days. A home cooked meal is so comforting and we thank you all.

Praise God I am cancer free! I am recovering well and currently am undergoing therapy to keep me cancer free. I have been so blessed by gifted doctors and staff who have and are caring for me as I battled cancer. I have been especially blessed by loving family and friends at Christ the King who continue to pray and encourage me. Thank you.

All the praise goes to our Heavenly Father!

In His Name, *Barbara B.*