

# United Methodist Church News

Groton - Conde - Andover



December 2002



Christmas is fast approaching - it is now less than a month away. "Don't remind me!" I still have so much to do! Gift buying! Decorating - inside and outside the house! Baking! Preparing for family and friends to come! And of course the big Christmas meal together! With all of this necessarily going on, how do you keep focus on Christ, whose birth we celebrate?

If it happens at all, it will happen because we are intentional about it. Here are a few things that you could do that will help you remember the birth of Christ in this busy season.

- A. Make a list of the important things
  1. Worship services you want to attend
  2. Church Christmas Program
  3. Other specifically religious events
- B. Do something good and unexpected for others
  1. Friend or neighbor
  2. Special Christmas donation to missions
- C. Especially with kids, emphasize the birth of Christ
  1. Lots of good Christmas stories you could read together
  2. Read the birth of Christ from the Bible with children
  3. Kids enjoy a Birthday cake for Jesus - it is after all his birthday we celebrate
  4. Sing Christmas hymns together - Kids don't care how well you sing
  5. Perhaps even a birthday gift for Jesus - money, a special offering, or clothing for a poor family
- D. Take time! Plan special time with your loved ones and don't let anything interfere!
  1. Enjoy the Christmas hymns - some old, some new tunes
  2. Read and reread the birth of Christ in the Bible. It is in both Matthew and Luke
  3. Actually enjoy Christmas presents, not just ripping the paper off
- E. Plan your traditional special meal and enjoy it
- F. *When it is all finished, sit back, remember and enjoy!*

Christmas by nature is hectic - we plan to much, want to do more than is possible. Just plan to do what is actually important. Most important, ***Celebrate the coming of the Christ Child.***

*Peace*  
*Pastor Grant*

The Thanksgiving sermon from Sunday November 24, 2002 included a parting blessing between a father and daughter. Several persons have asked for the words, so here they are: (Since it was often used in their family, they had shortened it to, "*I wish you enough.*")

*I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.*  
*I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.*  
*I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.*  
*I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.*  
*I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.*  
*I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.*  
*I wish you enough "Hellos" to get you through the final "Good bye"*

(Source: <http://www.iwishyouenough.com>)

## Groton UMC Mission Statement

*The Groton United Methodist Church is a body of believers seeking to strengthen and build a church family that provides all individuals with the opportunity to grow in their faith and lead an enriched spiritual life in Jesus Christ through worship, study, fellowship, working together and reaching out to others.*

## Groton UMW

Executive meeting at 1:00 p.m.—More date book planning, planned December Christmas luncheon.

Called to order by Linda Thurston, president, who gave a devotion, using Deuteronomy 4:9 on thankfulness. Repeated the PURPOSE in unison.

Lesson was on the Thank Offering, entitled "Healing the Whole Person" presented by Diann Morehouse and Twila Ruden. Mary Swisher, Linda Thurston and Jolene Townsend assisted with the program. The thank offering was collected and will be forwarded through channels.

The minutes were read and approved. Correspondence included a Dakota House Wish List, a thank you note from the Groton Youth Center for the \$500 gift and continued support and from the Groton Rescue Squad for the blankets.

There were no committee reports.

Gloria Pharis reported on the Fall Bazaar.

Linda noted the Certificate of Achievement which contributed to the Unit's receiving the Gold Star Award and the 5-Star Award.

The financial reports of the unit and Fall Bazaar were given by the treasurer, Clare Brotherton. The proposed budget was discussed in executive following the meeting.

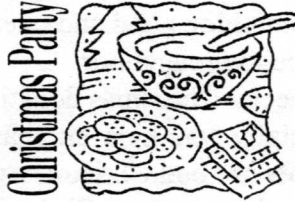
Bills were allowed to Linda Thurston for the coffee pot and Central District meeting pictures and to Jolene Townsend for blanket and craft supplies.

There was discussion on the May Breakfast and Fall Bazaar. General feeling and motion to that effect was that the Fall Bazaar will be held on the first Wednesday of October as was done several years ago instead of with the Men's Dinner.

Following adjournment, Mary Swisher and Sharon Wheeting served cheesecake and coffee for lunch. Sharon won the membership door prize pin.

## Announcements:

December Christmas Party—December 11—12:30 p.m.  
Potluck (Please bring a salad or dessert).  
Hostesses—Linda Thurston, Jolene Townsend,  
Twila Ruden, Clare Brotherton  
Program—"In the Spirit of Christmas"  
Leader—Anita Lowary.  
No business meeting following the program.  
Executive meeting—2:00 p.m.



**Christmas Party**

**UMW Members**

Please note the  
*change of date*  
for December

**2nd Wednesday, December 11/12:30 pm**  
instead of third Wednesday, December 18



## Groton Missions

For the month of December the Administrative Board has authorized a collection of paper products for Safe Harbor in Aberdeen. Safe Harbor is a place women and children can go if they are in an abusive situation. The women and children are protected, consoled, and started on a new life. Safe Harbor operates with the help of federal, state, and local grants and donations. Products that they are most in need of is toilet paper and diapers. Please drop off your donations at the church anytime during the month of December. Boxes will be located in the storage room along the north hallway.

## Many Thanks

We would like to thank all of the people that helped with the Men's dinner. Chuck Padfield for being in charge of the kitchen, UMYF group for waiting tables, those that furnished food and other donations. Thanks again for everyone's help.

Bert & Darlene Raap



## January Work Committee

Mary Swisher 397-8259  
Rose & Bill Tewksbury 397-8173  
Kristi & Lance Hawkins 397-8148

Leslie & Ken Dinger, Dustin & Mason  
Mary Alice & Bob Jensen Yvonne Lange  
Kami & Tom Lipp Beth Locke  
Pam & Roger Rix\* Eileen Piehl  
Jodi & Craig Sternhagen Marlys Rodman\*  
Gayleen & John Voss & Lacey  
Joy & Don Walter\*  
Mary Ann & Robert Wehde\*\*  
Doris & Richard Zoellner\*\*

### Honorary Members:

Ray Johnson Margaret Hubbard  
ImoJeanne Oliver Gladys Dodge Jay Swisher

**Extra Responsibilities for January:** Clean & organize storage room off fellowship hall, arrange for all church meeting or time to take down Christmas Decorations



## December Volunteers

**Ushers:** Gerald Rix & Fred Wolken

**Greeters:** ????????????

### **Acolytes:**

Dec 1 – Tom & Erin Sternhagen  
Dec 8 – Shawn Locke & Taylor Schmidt  
Dec 15 - Gavin Voss & Dylan Hanson  
Dec 22 - Sydney & Evan Erickson  
Dec 29 - Mitchell Madsen & Cody Hanson



## Seen on an outdoor church sign:

*When you were born, your mother brought you to church. . . .*

*When you were married, your wife brought you to church. . . .*

*When you die, your friends will bring you to church.*

*Why not try coming to church on your own sometime?*



## Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve Worship Services:

5:00 pm -- Groton

7:00 pm -- Conde

## Conde UMC Mission Statement

*The Conde United Methodist Church is a body of believers seeking to worship God; to proclaim the salvation of Christ the Lord; to increase the knowledge of the teachings of the Bible to all ages of people; to satisfy the spiritual and physical needs of all; and to instill in the people a sense of concern and obligation to the church, the community, and the world, through our church build on God the Rock.*

## Conde Administrative Board

The Conde Administrative Board met on Wednesday, November 20, 2002

### Old Business:

Sidewalk concrete project is completed.

Dinner theater cast is practicing and Joyce Haskell has the meal planned. Posters are up and tickets are available from cast members.

Stewardship letters have gained a fair response. About \$100 has been designated as "Fall Supper Donations".

### New Business:

A project for the Sunday School and Congregation to "clothe Baby Jesus" is underway. Items will be gathered for the In-gathering Layette Kits during the advent season. Rather than everyone buying the items, a basket will be available each Sunday for monetary donations to the project.

The Sunday School Children will do a short Christmas program on a Sunday morning during December.

The UMW will do two Christmas mission projects. Christmas gifts will be purchased for a needy family referred to them by the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield, and a \$50 donation will be given to the Salvation Army.

The church furnace will be checked by Bullock Plumbing and Heating from Ashton.

### UPCOMING DATES:

December 1 – Hanging of the Greens

December 7-8 -- Dinner Theater

December 15 – Administrative Board Meeting  
after Church

December 24 – 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service



## Conde UMW

The Conde UMW met Wednesday, November 20. Patty Knoll gave the lesson, "Healing the Whole Person." Life style choices are the cause of 1/2 of the deaths in our society, obesity being one of the underlying causes of many illnesses or death. Through the World Thank Offering many of the world's people are taught survival and the Thank Offering is our Thanks for God's blessings. Our individual offerings will be taken at the December 11 meeting.

The motion was made to again provide a needy family with Christmas gifts. The Good Samaritan Center in Redfield will send us the particulars about the family.

Through our mission giving a \$50 gift will be given to the Salvation Army in Aberdeen.

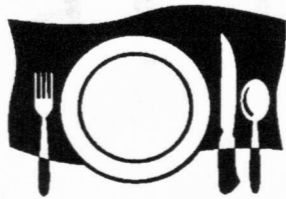
Anyone who has an extra 2003 calendar is asked to bring them to the church. They will be given to the residents of Jenkins Home in Watertown.

A delicious lunch was served at the close of the meeting by hostesses Donna Hearnen and Lois Trapp.

Remember a change in the time for the December meeting – December 11 at 11:00 am for lunch, program and meeting to follow.



Let's remember the "clothe Baby Jesus" project which is underway in the Conde United Methodist Church. Each Sunday a basket will be available for donations to purchase items for the In-Gathering Layette Kits. The goal is to collect enough money from the Sunday School Children and the adult congregation to purchase as many kits as possible. This is a way of sharing Christmas with those less fortunate.



## Dinner Theater

### Christmas Dinner Theater "Last Stop Till Christmas"

The Conde United Methodist Church is busy preparing for a Christmas Dinner Theater to be held Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8. The dinner will be at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Following the meal, the play will take place in the Sanctuary. All tickets will be sold in advance because of the limited seating space for the dinner.

The title of the play is "Last Stop Till Christmas" by Pat Cook and produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, CO. The cast consists of seven men: Horace Walter, Norman Smith, Joe Smith, Loren Siefken, Darrel Haskell, Marion Jensen & Brandon Smith. The twelve women's parts are being portrayed by Donna Walter, Donna Hearnen, Patty Knoll, Betty Giest, Betty Jensen, Pat Siefken, Jane Worlie, April Worlie, Gail Zeck, Betty Taylor, Lois Trapp and Joyce Haskell. Patty Knoll is directing the play and Joyce Haskell will be in charge of the meal.

The setting for this little holiday story is a bus stop, and the cast of players are waiting for the bus to arrive. Christmas is getting close and everyone seems to have some sort of a problem. You will see and hear some humorous reactions from this colorful group of waiting passengers. This event offers an evening of laughter, a good meal, and the promise of getting in the Spirit of Christmas.

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets can contact a cast member or call Donna Hearnen at 382-5264.



## Season's Greetings

*Every year at Christmas, the rector of a large downtown church received a bottle of his favorite peach brandy from a parishioner. This had gone on for years. One year, the rector's generous friend asked him to publicly thank him from the pulpit the next Sunday for the peach brandy. The rector reluctantly agreed.*

*Next Sunday, just about to give his sermon, the rector saw his friend sitting in the front pew, waiting. What was he going to say? Admit he liked to drink? "Before we begin," he said, "I have an announcement. I would very much like to thank my friend, Joe, for his kind gift of peaches - and for the spirit in which they were given!"*

- unknown

### Celebrate

#### those 2002 Ingathering totals!

8047 Kits - cash equivalent	\$109,182.00
Cash Contributions	75,293.84
<b>Grand Total Cash Equivalent</b>	<b>\$184,475.84</b>

### United Methodists Serve in Congress

With 61 United Methodist elected to serve in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, the denomination has maintained its third place ranking in overall membership - behind the Roman Catholics and the Baptists. The next Congress, which will be seated in January, will include 12 United Methodists in the Senate and 49 in the House of Representatives.



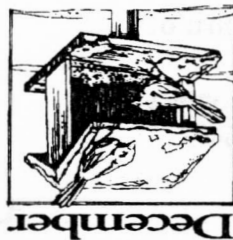


United Methodist Church  
 Groton - Conde - Andover Parish  
 906 North First Street  
 Groton, SD 57445-2192

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**December 2002  
 SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Conde 9:00 am  
 Sunday School 10:00 am  
 Groton 11:00 am



Pastor: Grant Pehl

email: [grotonumc@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumc@nvc.net)

home page: <http://members.nvc.net/grotonumc>

Office, Groton 605 397-8270

Home 397-4538

Kitchen, Groton 397-2670

Andover Church 298-5265

Conde Church 382-5261

**December Calendar**

Sun Dec 1	(G)	7:00 pm	UMYF
Wed Dec 4	(C)	2:00 pm	Esther Circle
	(C)	8:00 pm	Martha Circle
Sat Dec 7	(C)	6:00 pm	Dinner Theater
Sun Dec 8	(G)	11:00 am	SS Christmas Program
	(C)	6:00 pm	Dinner Theater
Wed Dec 11	(G)	12:30 pm	UMW
	(G)	8:00 pm	Administrative Council
Sun Dec 15	(C)	10:00 am	Administrative Board
	(G)	7:00 pm	UMYF
Sun Dec 22	(C)	9:00 am	World Hunger Offering
Tue Dec 24	(G)	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
	(C)	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship

Groton UMYF is still selling calendars - \$5.00  
 Please contact a youth to purchase yours!

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 GROTON, SD 57445-2192  
 PERMIT #31