

# United Methodist Church News

Groton - Conde - Andover



November 2002

## Pastor's Corner

November is upon us and with the recent snow and cold weather, it is not hard to believe. The fall activities are beginning,

pheasant hunting, fall dinners and simply putting things away and preparing for snow. All that is not remembering the important event of harvest, especially in the corn fields.

Perhaps the most important day of November is Thanksgiving, which is still of course some time away.

I sometimes wonder if it would be possible to start Thanksgiving now if it were not already in place. How much political posturing would there be before anyone could vote for setting up a new holiday? What excuses would be given for not saying thanks to God?

I think of those Pilgrims, with their surviving of the first winter in the new world, when more than half their number had been buried on a windy hill outside of town. Rations at one point had been cut to ten kernels of corn per meal. They had only small wild turkeys, lots of squash, fish and a few items that they had been taught to grow by the native American man Squanto for their first Thanksgiving. Squanto had had some contact with the Christian faith, after being captured and taken to Europe. This minimal contact helped him to care and share with persons he might have otherwise considered enemies. For many years there was a tradition in the New England States of placing on each Thanksgiving plate 10 kernels of corn as a reminder of how the pilgrims barely survived and what a contrast there is to our own table. For some people there was a tradition of naming 10 blessings of God that cannot be turned into cash before you eat your meal. Name them or eat the hard corn and no other goodies. To get you started, your family counts as one (no matter how large). Our national freedoms and all connected with them also count as one. You cannot say house, because it can be sold and turned into cash, likewise your car and any other material

possessions. Do we put too much emphasis on the material? Start counting or you may end up with only 10 kernels of dry corn instead of turkey, pie and other goodies. By the way, don't count the meal, there are lots of people today who will go to a fancy restaurant and pay big bucks to have others prepare the meal. It too could be cash.

Is there a difference between the first Thanksgiving and ours? Of course, but we should still be thankful for the blessings that God richly heaps on us. What blessings do you have that others don't?

Think about it.

*Peace*  
*Pastor Grant*

## With Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to family of Keith Taylor whose funeral was on October 7, 2002 in Conde.



Third graders, Tony Lyren, Angelia Smith and Shane Haskell in Conde and Mitchell Madsen, Katelyn Hawkins, Erin Sternhagen, Sydney Erickson, Ryland Strom, Bianca Sperry and Lyndsay Gese in Groton received their Bibles in September.

## **GIVE, BUT NOT AS THE WORLD GIVES** by Bishop Michael Coyner

This is the season of giving. No it is not Christmas yet, but it is the fall season when many of our churches in the Dakotas are having their fall stewardship drives. Some have actual pledges, some have faith promises, some have estimate of giving, some have harvest festivals – but typically during these fall months our churches and our people are making decisions about their giving. Included in these decisions is our Special Askings program, whereby local church choose which special mission projects they will support next year and turn in their pledges or estimates at their annual Charge Conference meetings. So, I urge you to give, but not as the world gives.

Jesus promised his disciples, "*Peace I give to you, my peace I give you, but not as the world gives.*" What do those words mean?

1. Jesus gives us peace, not more turmoil.
2. Jesus gives us himself, it is personal.
3. Jesus doesn't give and then retract his giving -- it is eternal.
4. Jesus gives without regard for what we can do in return. Agape love, generous giving, grace.

What might this teach us about our giving?

1. Our giving, our stewardship should arise out of a sense of peace, justice, and rightness in the world. We don't give by some formula (even "tithing" is just a suggested Biblical minimum), we give out of our concern to make the world right. Is it right that children go hungry in our world? No, so let's give! Is it right that 29% of our children in the Dakotas live in poverty? No, so let's give! Is it just that so many people in our area still do not know Christ? Of course not, so let's give!
2. Our giving must be personal. Write a check, put your money in the offering, support your local church. But .. that is only a start. Our giving must also be personal, it must include visiting the lonely, praying for the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and caring for the lost. Just sending a check doesn't get it done, giving is a personal endeavor.
3. Our giving must always be generous and never a tool for blackmail. I get really distressed by the few people who threaten to stop giving to their church or their denomination when they are upset about some issue. Is that the purpose for our giving? Do we give just to have "leverage" with others? No, our giving must always be generous, free, joyful in spirit.
4. Our giving can and should be without fear and without recourse. We don't give just to get our way, we don't even give just to receive God's blessings in more abundance (although that often happens). We give out of a sense of giving-away, setting our gifts free to do their work, and allowing God's Spirit the freedom needed to transform our gifts into little miracles. No strings attached, no conditions, no regrets. Just give.

*Jesus teaches us to give, not like the world gives, but like Jesus gives.  
May our giving be blessed with the peace of Christ.*

## 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 6:30 p.m.—Discussed 2003 budget and Date Book planning.

Repeated the PURPOSE and had a quiet time prayer.

Lesson was “More CHRISTmas—Less Consuming,” presented by Carna Atherton-Pray..

Business—Voted to assist with Blood Services Campaign on December 8, 2003, held at the Legion Building and partly sponsored by the Groton Kiwanis Club. The Kitchen Improvement Committee reported on progress of purchasing new items to complete settings of dishes. A new 100 cup coffee pot will also be purchased. Lefse for the Fall Bazaar will be made Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Many compliments were given on the evaluation sheets of the Central District meeting held in Groton September 14<sup>th</sup>. Jolene Townsend extended thanks for the help and cooperation in hosting it.

Officers were elected for the ensuing year and they will be installed at the January meeting.

Carna Atherton-Pray led the group in singing a new benediction , entitled “As You Go on Your Way.” The meeting was adjourned and Carna won the membership door prize pin.

Kay Brandt and Pam Bahr served dessert and coffee after the meeting.

### Announcements:

Next meeting—Nov. 20, 2:00 p.m.

Program -- “World Thank Offering”

Leaders --Twila Ruden/Diann Morehouse

Hostesses -- Mary Swisher/Sharon Wheeting.

### Upcoming Events:

UMW Bazaar & Men’s Dinner, November 10, 2002

November—Orientation of new officers.

December—Installation of new officers

## November Potluck Dinner

*November 24, 2002*

- Decorations for Christmas will be put up
- December work group will be assisting
- Everyone is invited** to assist with the decorations.

## VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER

Greeters

Rich & JoAnn Krueger

Ushers

Sherwin Nyberg & Rich Krueger

Acolytes

Nov 3 – Bianca Sperry & Taylor Schmidt

Nov 10 – Kaitlyn Hawkins & Alexa Nilsson

Nov 17 – Lyndsey & Taylor Gese

Nov 24 – Ryland Strom & Tanner Johnson

## December Work Group

Kay & Ben Brandt, 397-8505

Alex & Angela

Florram Norris & Lucius Geffre 397-2638

Ruth Thompson 397-8457

Marva & Lon Gellhaus Richard Voss

Kristi & Alan Johnson Dwight Strom

\*Mendy & James Jones \*Eunice Sperry

Jack Oliver \*Jeanne Wanous

\*Laurel & Monte McNickle & Morgan

Diann & Brad Morehouse, Jessie & Brent

\*Christine & Sherwin Nyberg

\*Marjorie & Roger Overacker

\*Ann & Gerald Rix

\*Betty & Charlie Strom

\*Marsha & Wayne Wienk & Brent

### Honorary Members:

Clara Rix

Margaret Blader

Dick & Gert Ruden

Groton United Methodist Church

# Men's Fall Dinner

Sunday, November 10, 2002

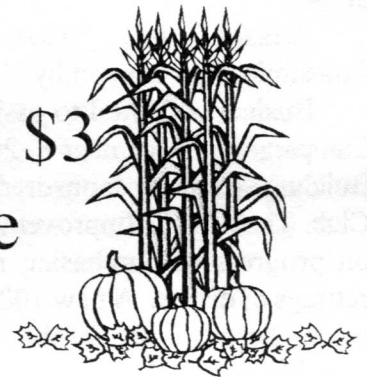
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Adults: \$6 Children 5-12: \$3

Children 4 and under: Free

*Swedish Meatballs, Ham*

*Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Pie*



# UMW FALL BAZAAR

Sunday, November 10, 2002

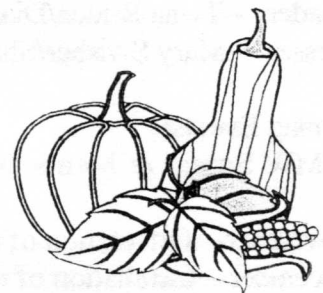
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Craft Sale*

*Country Store*

*White Elephant Sale*

*Bake Sale*





## 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 September/October

### **Old Business:**

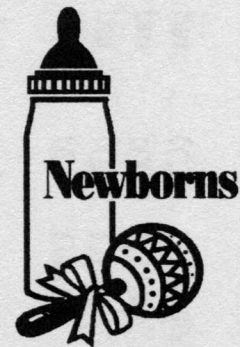
- The annual fall beef dinner will be canceled for 2002. A Dinner Theater on December 7-8 is in the planning stages.
- The concrete project has been completed, but not satisfactorily. The Trustees are dealing with the contractor.
- UMYF needs counselors. Those who have been leading for many years have decided against doing so this year. VOLUNTEERS are needed for this most important ministry of the church.
- Sunday School has resumed under the leadership of Marsha Murphy and Betty Geist. Please encourage all youngsters to attend.

### **New Business:**

- The Finance Committee presented the proposed budget for 2002. The “Special Askings” segment was approved at \$5.00/member with no special offering to be taken. The designated projects are: Camps – Capital Improvement and SD Lutheran Social Services.
- Stewardship Sunday will be held on November 3, 2002. A mailing will be sent which includes an explanation of financial need, a copy of the budget, your statement of giving, and an estimate of giving card for 2003.
- Groton requested a trade for worship times on November 10 to better allow them to prepare for their annual Men’s Dinner that day. The Board agreed.
- Charge Conference is scheduled for November 13 - 7:00 pm – Groton UMC.
- Rev. Piehl introduced the idea of doing a “Hanging of the Greens”. This will be done on December 1, 2002. Advent activities will take place during the

week following.

- The Board approved using the fellowship hall for the Snow Queen Contest.
- Christmas Eve Services in Conde will be December 24 at 7:00 pm.



A baby girl, Hannah Kay, to Laren and Caron Siefken. Greetings may be sent to them at 66 Fisher Rd, Varnville SC, 29944. Congratulations to the grandparents – Pat & Loren Siefken!

A baby girl, Holli Jo, to Tonya and Bernie Jark, 680 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Stratford SD 57474. Grandparents are Janette & Barry Imsland and Bonnie & Kenny Jark.

## Conde UMW

Donna Walter presided at the October meeting of the Conde United Methodist Women. Cards were sent to Elaine Tweedy, Arlene Peterson, Eva Lyren, Donna Hannon, Betty Taylor and Dolores Grimes.

Due to the absence of the lesson leader, Marjorie Wright read from the Prayer Calendar and led the discussion. The discussion prompted the ladies to ask the question, “Why should the Church be involved in politics?”

The slate of officers for 2003 were read and approved.

The November 20 lesson will be on “Healing the Whole Person” given by Patty Knoll. Hostesses are Lois Trapp and Donna Hearnen. We are reminded to bring our World Thank Offering.

Lunch was served by hostesses Patty Knoll and Betty Jensen.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**November 2002**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
 9:00 am Conde  
 10:00 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Groton

Pastor: Grant Piehl

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



**November Calendar**

Sun Nov 3	7:00 pm	(G)	UMYF
Tue Nov 5	<b>Election Day - Cast your ballot</b>		
Wed Nov 6	2:00 pm	(C)	Esther Circle
	8:00 pm	(C)	Martha Circle
Thu Nov 7	7:30 pm	(C)	PPR Committee
Sat Nov 9		(G)	Beverly Worship
Sun Nov 10	9:00 am	(G)	Worship
	10:00 am	(G)	Bazaar
	11:00 am	(C)	Worship
	11:00 am	(G)	Men's Dinner
Wed Nov 13	7:00 pm	(G)	Charge Conference
<i>Administrative board members should be there, other members are welcome.</i>			
Sun Nov 17	7:00 pm	(G)	UMYF
Wed Nov 20	2:00 pm	(C)	UMW
	1:00 pm	(G)	UMW Executive
	2:00 pm	(G)	UMW
	8:00 pm	(C)	Administrative Board
Sun Oct 24	9:00 am	(C)	World Hunger Offering

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