

United Methodist Church News

Groton - Conde - Andover



September 2002

Pastor's Corner

With September 11 fast approaching, it seems like there should be something profound to say about it. After all it is one of those flashbulb moments, one we remember a very long time after the event. "Where were you when you first learned about the attack? Who were you with? What was your first reaction? Is your reaction still the same?" There is too much hate and blame that goes with most of our reactions. We want to blame the terrorists, and yes they caused the action of crashing planes, but they are no longer around, so we blame the organizations from which we think they came. But they are far away, so we blame the FBI for not stopping the attack. Are they so "God-like" that they would know and have the ability to stop it before it happened? We are far from a perfect world. Bad things do happen, even to good people. There is a lot of hate and injustice all around. It causes lots of bad things. It took a lot of hate to plan and carry out the terrorist attack. How are we ever going to change all that and actually make world better?

There is a story from many years ago, when Colonel Jeff O'Leary served as part of the UN peacekeeping forces in the Sinai Peninsula. While there, he encountered a number of Bedouin People, a nomadic people who travel this desert region. One afternoon, Colonel O'Leary had tea with a group of Bedouin men. Colonel O'Leary couldn't help but notice that his host kept staring at a man who was tending his camels. The host pointed out that man and hissed at Colonel O'Leary, "Do you see that man? He is a camel thief."

Colonel O'Leary wanted to know why his host would hire a camel thief to tend his camels, so he began asking questions. Turns out that in his host's eyes this man was a camel thief because he came from a family of camel thieves. *Why were they a family of camel thieves?* Because one of their ancestors had once stolen some camels from this man's family. *How long ago,* O'Leary asked. *Eight hundred years ago* -- the host's family had passed the story of the camel thief. Forgiveness was not an option for them. In the Bedouin host's mind, the crime was as if it had

happened yesterday, and this man was just as much a thief as his ancestor who had actually stolen the camel. 800 years ago? -- I don't even know who my ancestors were more than a couple of generations, much less what they did for good or evil!

What can I do about Terrorists? As with most major world events, not a great deal, but I can keep hate out of my heart and thus keep from becoming just like them. How many, "*We should do thus and so with those terrorists,*" statements have you heard? It usually includes something that would make us no different than they are. We should hurt, kill, etc. That is what they have done. But since I don't want to be like that, I must turn to the example of Jesus. He healed a Roman soldier's servant. He healed the high priest's servant. Most would call them his enemies. Jesus healed them.

I am not talking about easy forgiveness, that says anything is OK, just forgive everything. I am talking about what we say and how we act. I am talking about what we think and say about fellow human beings. I am talking about what we actively do with and for other people. A cup of cold water, food even for an enemy, clothing for the enemy that needs it. The short word is *love*.

I am already hearing more about 9-11 than I want to hear. I hear "war and rumors of war". How will it end? Fight to the last man standing? Or some forgiveness, that treats a fellow human like a real person.

Think it over -- real carefully.

Peace
Pastor Grant

Congratulations . . . to William Zoellner and Wanda Thompson who were married in the Groton Church on August 17, 2002.

With Sympathy

Our Christian sympathy to the family of Harold Stevenson, whose funeral was in the Andover Church on August 9, 2002.

LIVING WATERS -August 2002 It's About Bicycles, Christian!

Sure, folks in Winner are talking about the drought. But folks are still talking about the bicycles, too

Back in June, the kids at Vacation Church School decided to use their offerings to buy a missionary's bicycle. If you have an idea about a mission project, look on the Board of Global Ministries website <<http://gbgm-umc.org/advance/>> , Pastor Val Reinhiller advised. "I remembered a story I'd heard and searched for bicycles on the Board of Global ministries web site and there it was."

Buying a bicycle was something the kids could relate to. "They understood someone depending on a bicycle for transportation because they do that, too." They learned why they couldn't just buy a bike in Winner and send it to Africa. The kids understood that a bike for desert roads, mountains and bush country needed to be heavier and stronger than a regular bike, Reinhiller said

By the third day of VCS, they had raised \$96 toward an East African Youth worker's \$181 bicycle. "The sanctuary exploded with yells when the Thursday total was announced. They were sending a bicycle to a missionary! They knew what their goal was -- they had exceeded it -- and they knew that bicycle could help a real missionary tell people about the love of Jesus."

The children were so excited they decided to try to bring enough money for a second bike. When the final offering was counted on Friday, they had raised \$394.29, exceeding their goal by \$32. That's when they decided to challenge the congregation on Sunday during the VCS program to match the offering they had collected.

"It was fun to see the reactions of the kids who collected the Sunday offering. Their eyes kept getting bigger as they could see the totals." When the amount was announced late in the service, the congregation had met the challenge. Together, the offerings totaled \$936, more than enough to buy five bicycles.

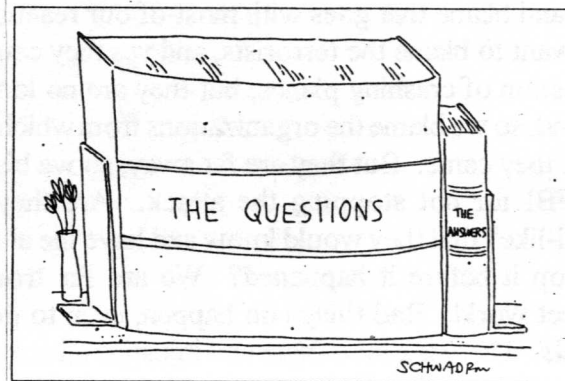
"The sanctuary exploded again with applause, cheering, and jumping. The adults were just flabbergasted that these kids really did it. They saw the excitement in the kids' faces. There were tears in many eyes because the kids didn't do this for themselves. It was one way of our being able to really share the gospel to another person."

So East African youth workers now ride bicycles

bought by folks from Winner, SD. Why are folks in Winner still talking about bicycles? "Now when we look back and talk about how we can be witnesses to the love of Jesus, sometimes it's helping a missionary in another culture," Reinhiller said. "We have to look at the whole global issue now, and when we hear about Africa, now there's a different light on the news."

Service of Remembrance

The Aberdeen Ministerial Association will conduct a special 9-11 service in the Bandshell at Melgaard Park on Wednesday, September 11 at 7:30 pm . Everyone is invited.



NBC to air UMC Commercials

NBC-TV will air a special United Methodist Church commercial twice on September 11, 2002, during the "Today" show coverage of the first anniversary of the national tragedy of September 11, 2001. The name of the spot is "Amen." The NBC "Today" show marks the beginning of the third major series of national United Methodist TV commercials. Being present in the media on 9/11 helps show that The United Methodist Church is praying for all people during this time of healing.

The "Amen" spot was especially crafted by UM Communications' Igniting Ministry. Other Igniting Ministry commercials will air Wednesday - Saturday, September 4-30, on 18 cable networks. They include the ABC Family, A & E, BET, CNBC, CNN, CNN Headline News, Discovery, Fox News, Fox Sports, HGTV, History, Lifetime, MSNBC, TBS, TNT, Univision, USA and Weather Channel networks.

Thoughts on service:

- No one can help everybody, but everybody can help someone

-God, grant that the heat in my heart will melt the lead in my feet.

It's Health Kit Harvest time!

UM volunteers who worked with the Salvation Army at the Battle Creek fire camps in the Black Hills told how much fire fighters appreciated the UMCOR health kits. Kits were sent from all over the Dakotas AND from Sager Brown UMCOR Depot.

Now we need to replenish those health kits so that we can respond to urgent need in other places. **The Mission Engagement Office asks that every UM family in every church in the Dakotas make a health kit (or two or three) or contribute the equivalent cost of \$12.** All health kits should be brought to the September 28 Ingathering at DWU, the Hunger Poverty Events in North Dakota, or the Office of Mission Engagement. Gladys McCracken, leader of the Conference VIM team to Sagar Brown, sends this up-to-the-minute info on health kits:

Health Kits

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" or 17" x 27")
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not the pocket sized)
- 1 nail file or 1 pair of fingernail clippers
- 1 bath-size (5 oz. or larger) bar of soap in original wrapper
- 1 toothbrush in original wrapper (single brushes only)
- 1 tube of toothpaste (4.5 oz. or larger)
- 6 medium size (3/4") adhesive bandages (such as Band-Aids)

All new items please.
No extra items.
Remove toothpaste from carton.
Wrap items in the hand towel.
Place items in a sealed, one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

Since our ingathering is September 28, 2002, please provide toothpaste with an expiration date 8 months past September (or May 2002). The expiration date is on the cardboard carton or on the end of the tube. AIM, CLOSE-UP and PEPSODENT have no expiration date.

Open House Month Approaches

United Methodist Open House month is an opportunity to emulate Jesus' truly welcoming spirit, by intentionally inviting and welcoming people in your community as if each were Christ. Open House Month reinforces the promise of open hearts, open minds and open doors made by Igniting Ministry commercials (spots) airing nationally in September.

Local churches are asked to make a special effort to plan special events, activities and worship service and invite newcomers to attend.

In conjunction with Open House 2002, each congregation is being asked to set aside Sunday, September 8, 2002 for "Remembering 9/11" services commemorating and remembering the tragedy. Your church could be a place where the community can gather to remember and to pray for wisdom, comfort and healing.



September 8, 2002

Conde – Sunday School resumes
Groton – Rally Day for the Sunday School
UMYF -- Ice Cream Social

God can take the place of anything, but nothing can take the place of God.
–Unknown

God with man is still God; man without God is nothing.
–Unknown

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 Mission Update

School Kits – items for the kits have been basically donated; however, there is a need for 11 pencil sharpeners and 14 pads of paper. It has been requested “no” spiral notebooks, lined filler paper is preferred. If there is a need, Sunday School children will be asked to donate one of the above on September 15. A note will be sent with children the previous Sunday. Thanks to Eunice Sperry, Doris Strom and Deloris Knoll for making the kits. . . . and another thanks to all who donated supplies to the kits.



VOLUNTEERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Ushers – Twila Ruden & Cliff Pray

Greeters – Chris & Sherwin Nyberg

UMW --September 11, 2002

6:30 pm Executive meeting

7:30 pm UMW meeting

Program -- “Baby Quilts Made Tonight”

(no machine required-bringscissors/yardstick)

Leader -- Jolene Townsend

Hostesses -- Jodie Sternhagen/Elaine Wolken



UMW Central District meeting in Groton on September 14.



Anyone in grades 6-12 who has not registered for UMYF, please do so with Michelle or Bruce Schumacher. The first meeting, an ice cream social, is scheduled for Sunday, September 8 at 7:00 pm at the church fellowship hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

OCTOBER WORK COMMITTEE

Linda & Jay Johnson 397-8565

Gloria & Harry Pharis 397-2375

Don Bartz Scott Craig

Carla & Tim Geffre Charity Kramer

*Caralee & Gary Heitmann *Diane Nissen

*Charlotte & Art Lange *Sue & Matt Rock

*Brenda & Tony Madsen

Autumn & Ward Sperry & Haida Boyd

*Carol & Luverne Strom

Jerry Sundling, Tom, Mike & Michelle

*Kim & Craig Weber

*Sharon & Larry Wheeting

*Jean & Vern Walter

*Francine & Mark Sippel

Honorary Members:

Barbara & Robert Wegner Myrle Trask

Irene Breitkruetz

Extra responsibilities for **October**: Clean Kitchen

We must care for our bodies as though they were going to live forever, but we must care for our souls as if we are going to die tomorrow.

– Augustine, quoted in *Money Matters*,

August 2001, 3.

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 Administrative Board met on Wednesday, August 21. Rev. Piehl opened the meeting with prayer.

Old Business:

- Roof repair has been completed
- A bid for the cement work was accepted.
- The church upright vacuum was reconditioned and new canister vac for doing the pews and furniture was purchased
- After much discussion, the board approved having a beef supper on Sunday, October 27. Joyce Haskell will be the chairperson.

New Business:

-Trustees reported that the Parsonage Tour in Groton revealed the need for several repairs including: east window exterior trim, trim on south side, rain gutter replacement, interior varnishing of window sills, treatment of ceiling and carpet stains, family room book shelves. Money for these repairs will be taken from the account established for parsonage repair which is funded monthly by both Groton (\$200) and Conde (\$100).

Upcoming Events:

- Sept 8 – Sunday School reconvenes;
“2002 Special Askings” offering
- Sept 25 – Administrative Board meets
- Sept 28 – Bishop’s Ingathering
- Oct 16 – Charge Conference/ Groton

Conde UMW

The Conde United Methodist Women met on August 21 with seven members and five visitors. Our Shepherdess, Penny Culver, Wessington Springs came to visit our Unit.

The lesson “Invisible Families in the United States Today” was presented by Betty Jensen. Discussion was prompted by such questions as “what do we mean when we say “family”? In this time of social change can we define a “normal” family? Some family structures are complex and diverse, isn’t that part of the reason so many families are in trouble today? What can we do about it?”

Donna Walter opened the meeting by reading, “We Must Learn to Understand One Another” taken from One World, One Heart.

The business for the day included preparing kits for the In-Gathering. The UMW approved spending up to \$50 to complete the kits. Election will be held next month. The evacuation of Storm Mountain Camp was mentioned as the fires in the Black Hills rage on. Everyone was told to be aware of the District meeting to be held in Groton on September 14. A donation of \$25 was made to the In-Gathering in lieu of making pies to be sold.

The next meeting will be September 18. Donna Walter will have the lesson, hostesses are Marjorie Wright and Dolores Grimes.



It may be that healthy families are “planted” in church.

Does church attendance affect how much people value their families? According to a Gallup survey, 96 percent of those who attend religious services at least weekly say that family life is “very important” to them while only 75 percent of those who never attend church placed the same priority on families.

–Emerging Trends, September 2002, 3

Special Askings Offering

Last year and again this year, the Dakotas Conference voted certain projects into this new category entitled "Special Askings". This category includes projects that were cut from the budget, and are no longer being funded by the apportionments paid by each church in the Conference.

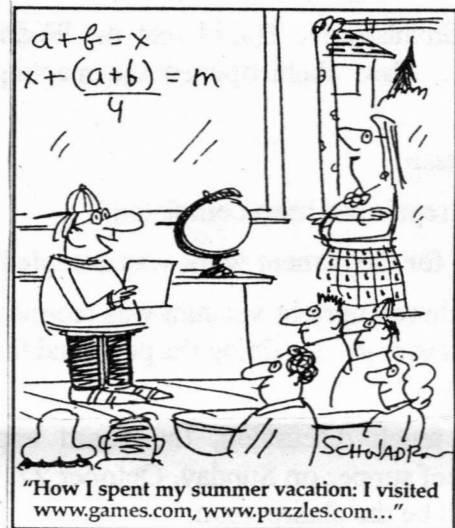
In September 2001, the Conde Administrative Board voted to give \$425 to the Special Askings, and this amount was taken from the General Fund. The dollar amount was calculated by multiplying the church membership of 85 X \$5. The two projects that the Board decided to help fund were SD Lutheran Social Services and Capital Improvement Fund for the Dakotas UMC Camps. It was also decided that there would be a special offering taken, so church members would have an opportunity to donate to the two projects if they would so choose. This special offering will be taken on Sunday, September 8th. At the September Administrative Board meeting, it will be discussed how the donation for 2003 Special Askings should be done.

UMCOR KITS

We are assembling UMCOR kits for the Ingathering. There were 21 Health Kits put together this summer and sent to Sturgis for those in need during the recent fires; however, there is now a continuing need to replenish the Health Kits at the depot. There is also a need for the School Kits, Layettes and Sewing Kits. If anyone would like to buy some items for the kits or donate money for the purchase of the items, please contact Donna Hearnen. The kits will be taken to the Ingathering in Mitchell on September 28.



Russell and Millie Busing will be honored for their 25th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, September 21, from 2-4:00 pm at the Conde United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.



from The Joyful Noiseletter

Two frogs fell into a 10 gallon milk bucket. They swam for hours. Exhausted, one frog said, "What is the use?" and he gave up and drowned.

The other frog said, "I can't afford to give up." So the frog kicked and kicked until the cream turned into butter, and then he jumped out of the can.

Perhaps, if the two frogs had kicked together, the cream would have become butter quicker.

-Unknown

**Thanks for
VOLUNTEERING**

Ushers for September
Richard & Dorothy Sanderson

We've Come This Far by Faith

***"Now faith is the assurance of
things hoped for, the
conviction of things not seen.***

***... Yet all these ... did not
receive what was promised,
since God had provided
something better so that they
would not, apart from us, be
made perfect."***

Hebrews 11:1, 39-40



ADANCE

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is rich with the imagery of persons who lived their lives with great faithfulness. The biblical writer is poetic in telling their stories.

By faith, the people understood the universe to be formed at God's command. By faith, Noah built an ark. By faith, Abraham went into a strange land. By faith, Moses' parents hid him. By faith, the people passed through the Red Sea, but Pharaoh's army drowned.

Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for God has prepared a city for them.

As a young seminarian reading and visualizing the transition from Hebrews 11 to Hebrews 12, I was always struck by the implied power of the opening word "therefore." It was no longer their faith, but my faith. No longer their race, but my race.

Therefore, being surrounded by the faith of these witnesses, let me also lay aside hindrances and entanglements and receive the baton. And with perseverance, let me run the race for health and wholeness, inclusiveness, justice and liberation, and equal opportunity, lest the contributions of their faith be in vain for the age in which I live.

***Prayer: Eternal God, help us to
remember and to live the words of the
familiar hymn:***

***"We've come this far by faith
Leaning on the Lord;
Trusting in His Holy Word,
He's never failed me yet."
In your name we pray. Amen.***

*Native American Comprehensive Plan,
No. 982615-4*

—Dr. William T. Carter, Springfield Gardens United Methodist Church, Queens, N.Y.; clergy member, Northern Illinois Conference; and director, Advance for Christ and His Church



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2002

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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



Pastor: Grant Piehl

email: grotoumnc@nvc.net

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

Office, Groton 605 397-8270

Home 397-4538

Kitchen, Groton 397-2670

Andover Church 298-5265

Conde Church 382-5261

September 2002

Wed Sept 4	(C)	2:00 pm 8:00 pm	Esther Circle Martha Circle
Sun Sept 8	(G)	10:00 am	Rally Sunday
	(C)	10:00 am	Sunday School
	(G)	7:00 pm	UMYF
Tue Sept 10	(G)	8:00 pm	PPR meeting
Wed Sept 11	(G)	6:30 pm 7:30 pm 7:30 pm 9:00 pm	UMW Executive 9-11 Service/Abdn UMW meeting Ad Council
Sat Sept 14	(G)	9:00 am	UMW Dist Meeting
Wed Sept 18	(C)	2:00 pm 8:00 pm	UMW Administrative Board
Sat Sept 21	(G)		Beverly Worship
Sat Sept 28	Bishops In-Gathering - DWU		

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