



UMC NEWSLETTER

Groton/Conde UMC Parishes

December 2003

Pastor's notes

We have come to December and the final rush before Christmas. Already there has been the Hanging of the Greens service in the church and in the shopping mall the busiest day of the commercial Christmas season. We all feel rushed as we think about further shopping, lights and other decorations to be put up, plans for meeting with relatives and friends in this season. Then there are also baking plans and house cleaning. The list of "must do" grows daily.

But Christmas is first and always a season of spiritual renewal. If that is to be so we must make preparation for that part of Christmas also. Advent is a time of preparation. Christ tells us to be prepared. We spend a lot of time preparing for Christmas. Our churches spend time preparing for the Hanging of the Greens, special music, advent wreaths, candlelight services, a Christmas Program and other events.

One of the ways we prepare is by prayer. "Be always on the watch," our master reminds us, "that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." It is a busy season, but that means that it is particularly important to be vigilant about setting aside time to pray. Prayer is the key to using our time wisely. It is in our time of communion with God that we receive the guidance we need to

navigate the chaos of the Christmas Season. Some of that prayer is personal, some family, some in the community of the church. But take time to pray.

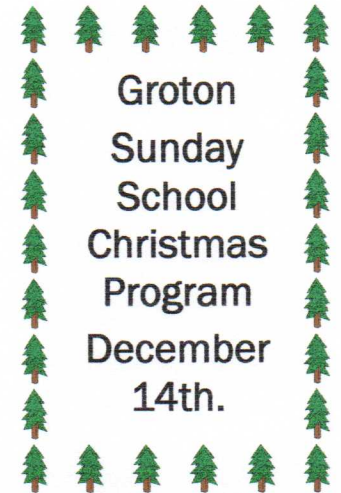
Prepare for special activities. We plan for family gatherings. Remember to plan also a special time for reading the story from Matthew or Luke of the birth of Christ. It is special for this season and for Christians. With all the fun of the season, plan for the spiritual also. Along with that plan for worship. Remember the remaining Sundays of Advent and especially Christmas Eve worship. The beauty of the church at Christmas is something special.

Remember to be excited! Don't let the work and planning make you so tired, that you miss the good parts. Only young children really know how to wait for Christmas! They bounce around on the sofa so excited by the prospect of presents to come that they can barely contain themselves. That is the way we as Christian persons should anticipate the coming again of Christ that the Advent season looks forward to. Remember the closing words of the New Testament: "Come Lord Jesus!" Good words for Christmas or any season of our lives.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Peace to you in the season of Christ's Birth!

Pastor Grant



Groton
Sunday
School
Christmas
Program
December
14th.



Open House
Come 'N' Go
Bridal Shower
Melissa Sippel
Mortenson
Bride-to-Be of
Neil Gilbert
Sunday
December 14th
1:00-4:00 p.m.



Groton UMC Ad Council Minutes—Nov 12th

Linda Thurston reported a successful UMW Fall Bazaar which yielded a profit of over \$1,000, and she thanked all who assisted in any way.

The Music & Worship committee has made plans for the choir to sing once a month at regular service, and will provide special music on other occasions.

The new outside door at the parsonage has been installed. Plans for next year include painting the outside of the parsonage, and replacing and/or repairing windows as needed.

The Membership Committee plans to contact persons on the membership rolls who have not at-

tended this church for a period of time, to verify their wishes regarding membership.

The Lay Leader is planning a meeting with chairpersons appointed to 2004 committees at the Charge Conference, to explain and discuss their committee responsibilities.

The free-will offering to be taken at the Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be evenly split between the Groton Family Crisis Center and The Banquet in Sioux Falls.

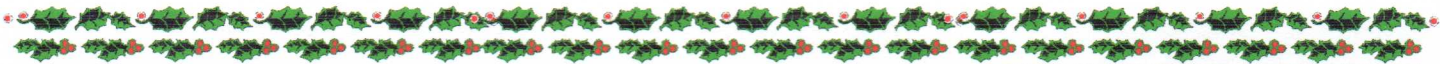
About 330 persons enjoyed the Men's Dinner. Comments regarding the meal have been very favorable, and appreciation to Harry Pharis for chairing the event was

expressed.

The Trustees have noted the poor condition of the church front doors, and will investigate possible options.

It was decided to dedicate the coffee and potluck collections to the Bishop's "Special Askings" project again, up to a specified amount. The Conference Camping Capital Improvement was designated as recipient of the funds.

The Hanging of the Greens service will be November 30th. The Groton Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 pm this year.



January Work Committee

Mary & Cal Hayenga 298-5617
Marjorie & Russell Townsend
298-5221

Pam & Doug Bahr** 397-8251
Brian Bahr 397-4589
Dion Bahr 397-4434
Meri & John Erickson & Seth ***
397-6674

Robert Hood* 397-2359
Anita & John Lowary* 397-2495
Hazel & Jim McKittrick 397-8505
Connie & Dave Nilsson & Logan*
229-5014

Dick Oliver 397-2488
Darlene & Bert Raap 397-4408
Michelle & Bruce Schumacher
397-8128

Carolyn & Robert Snyder**
397-8396

Linda & Gary Thurston***397-2371

Jolene & Alan Townsend & Zachary
Barton** 395-6455
William & Wanda Zoellner397-8395

Honorary Members

Margarette & Don Clocksene
Erwin Hite

January Extra Responsibilities

- Beverly Healthcare Coffee Jan 11th
- January 4th white altar cloths
- January 11th hang Communion Banners for this day only
- January 18th green altar cloths
- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Take down Christmas decorations with all church helping
- Clean Sanctuary

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 Ad Council
December 10th**



**Groton UMW
December Meeting**

December 10th

12:30 p.m. Wednesday

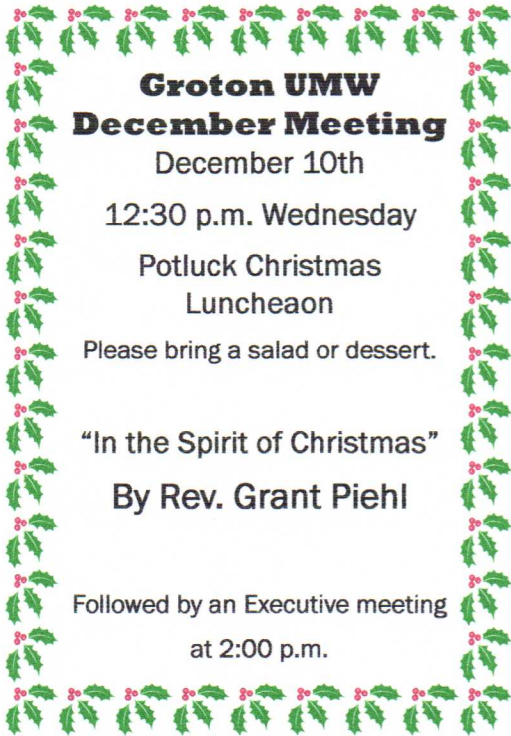
Potluck Christmas
Luncheon

Please bring a salad or dessert.

"In the Spirit of Christmas"

By Rev. Grant Piehl

Followed by an Executive meeting
at 2:00 p.m.



Groton UMW
will be collecting items
through December
21st
Laundry detergent
house cleaning
supplies
paper products
personal hygiene
products for

**Safe
Harbor**
assisting women, children & men

Thank You

We have already
received several
Christmas cards and
greetings and want to
thank all of you for
these greetings, letters
and gifts. They mean a
great deal during this
season.

Thanks again.
Rev. Grant & Eileen
Piehl



Pastor Grant Piehl
Email: grotounumc@nvc.net
www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc
Office, Groton 605-397-8270
Home 397-4538
Kitchen, Groton 397-2670
Conde Church 382-5261

Groton 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Conde 11:00 a.m.

**December 2003
SUNDAY WORSHIP**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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