

UMC Newsletter

GROTON/CONDE
PARISHES

FEBRUARY 2004

A Note From the Pastor

A young boy of 9 was sitting in his father's workshop, watching his dad work on a harness. "Someday Father," said Louis, "I want to be a harness-maker, just like you." "Why not start now?" said his father. He took a piece of leather and drew a design on it. "Now" he said, "take the hole-punch and hammer out this design, but be careful that you don't hit your hand." Excited, they boy began to work, but when he hit the hole-punch, it flew out of his hand and pierced his eye! He lost his sight in that eye. Later, as it would turn out, sight in the other eye failed. Louis was now totally blind. A few years later, Louis was sitting in the family garden when a friend handed him a pinecone. As he ran his sensitive fingers over the cone, and idea came to him. He became enthusiastic and began to create an alphabet of raised dots on paper so that the blind could feel and interpret. Thus, Louis Braille in 1818 opened up a whole new world for the blind.

Not everyone can make something as good and beneficial as the Braille alphabet out of their problems or disasters, but perhaps when we do run into life's comparatively small problems perhaps we can do something positive with them or at least not let them

defeat us even for the moment.

What is it that Jesus intends to do during his three years of ministry? What does he intend to do in the many years of our life? It is this: To open up a whole new world for you and for me. To bring us out of our poverty of ideas, commitment and soul that has long held us down and to recover site that you and I have long since lost.

At his home synagogue in Nazareth Jesus proclaimed his mission by quoting from Isaiah,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor,

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and

Recovery of sight to the blind,

To let the oppressed go free and to Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:18

Has it happened for you? Christ intends that it will.

Peace

Pastor Grant



www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc



THE WEBSITE WHAT'S ON IT?

-) *New Coloring Book on the Website. All ages can have some fun!*
-) *New Monthly interactive calendar with events posted by various people is available. Birthday Calendar and Bulletin Weekly Announcements.*
-) *Cartoons that are updated regularly!*
-) *Mission UMCOR Kits with patterns and the kit requirements.*
-) *Groton UMC History*
-) *This newsletter is on the website in color!*
-) *E-Mail a form to the Lay Leader with ideas and suggestions and complaints.*
-) *Sunday Bulletin can arrive in your e-mail box each week in Word Format. This is a great way to keep in touch with the weekly events at the church! Just send us an e-mail request.*

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Sheep: A Sure Thing



It feels good to pull on a wool sweater when the weather's chilly. In cold climates, many indigenous people rely on the warm clothes and blankets they can make from sheep's thick wool. And subsistence farmers depend on sheep for income.

Heifer International participants learn how to care for their sheep so they will improve fragile grassland with their droppings, and not over-graze it. Heifer International quality sheep give three times as much wool as local ones. And with one or two offspring a year, a flock soon grows and a steady income is ensured. Our goal is to send a gift of a Sheep:\$120; Share \$10.

The Mission Committee will sponsor a Soup and Sandwich Supper Ash Wednesday 6:30 p.m. February 25th before services. Free will offering to benefit the Heifer International. Read more on their projects at www.heifer.org



UMYF Meeting



Wow! UMYF had 12 kids attend our first meeting. Officers elected were: Nathan Atherton, President; Logan Nilsson, Vice-President; Jackson Strom, Secretary; and Alana Wolken, Treasurer. Others in attendance were Lee Swenson, Seth Erickson, Zach Barton, Amber Wolken, Evan Erickson, Cody Hanson, Amanda Swenson, and Ali Pasteur.

Activities for February include Souper Bowl Sunday on February 1st. Our next meeting on February 25th at 6:30. We will have Soup and Sandwich, attend Ash Wednesday services, and have a meeting. Hope to see everyone there!



*Congratulations to
Neil & Melissa Gilbert
January 10, 2004*



Start Spring Cleaning! Goodwill is bringing us a trailer again this year May 20-27th. Last year we collected 15,000 pounds of stuff! Help spread the word and see if we can collect even more this year!

They accept donations of usable clothing, small electrical items, clean shoes, books, housewares, toys, records, tapes, jewelry, and sporting goods. Furniture and large appliances **will not** be accepted due to limited trailer space. Donations brought should be put inside the trailer towards the front. Donations will be processed and put into the Goodwill retail stores. With your donations, you are helping to support Goodwill's many programs and services.

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Groton Administrative Council Minutes

Items on the agenda January 14

Mary Hayenga, starting a new term as Chairman, welcomed other new members to the meeting.

The UMYF has new leaders—John and Meri Erickson and Lars and Kelli

Hanson. The first meeting of the new group is set for January 21st at 6:30 pm.

Carnal Atherton-Pray will attend a Lay Leader teaching course in Watertown the end of January.

The Trustees were authorized to proceed with two projects. The Robert Jenson memorial funds will be used to purchase and install new front doors for the church. Also under consideration is replacement of the kitchen counter tops.

Alan and Jolene Townsend, co-chairs, announced that the Missions Committee will host a soup and sandwich supper on February 25th. Proceeds will be given to the Heifer Project.

Jim Persons, District Supervisor, will be here for a meeting with the Administrative Councils of both churches and the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee. Purpose of the meeting is to discuss future goals and plans.

Lenten services will be held each Wednesday night of Lent, starting with a soup and sandwich supper at 6:30 pm, followed by a short service at 7:00 pm. The various church committees will host the suppers, starting with the Missions Committee

Groton Lent Schedule

Lent begins this year on February 25, Ash Wednesday and runs to Easter Sunday on April 11. This year for Lent we will be gathering at the church at 6:30 for soup and sandwich supper followed by a short (10-15 minute) Worship Service. It will usually be a story or illustration. Something quick to the point to make us think about Christ and his claims on our lives. Worship will be after soup and sandwich or about 7:00 p.m.

Various groups within the church will serve the Soup and Sandwich Meal. Schedule is as follows:

February 25, Ash Weds	Missions Committee
March 3	UMYF

on February 25th. Other tentative hosts are: March 3, UMYF; March 10, Administrative Council; March 17, UMW; March 24, Music & Worship; and March 31, Education. There will be a Maundy Thursday service with communion in Groton. The Good Friday observance is an ecumenical service at noon.

Goodwill Industries has contacted the church with regard to again placing their truck on the church parking lot to receive donated collections. They noted that 15,000 pounds of materials were collected here last year. If possible, a date in May will be arranged.

The Missions Committee will again use the Christmas Eve offering to distribute Easter Baskets.

The second person has been hired to share the janitorial duties for the church.

The next meeting of the Administrative Council will be February 11th at 7:30 pm. All church members are welcome to attend.



"Man does not live by bread alone. Man has been adding a great deal of butter."

March 10	Ad Council
March 17	UMW
March 24	Music & Worship
March 31	Sunday School
April 7, Holy Week	
April 9, Good Friday Community Service	
April 11, Easter UMYF doing Sunrise Service	

Offering will be received as you go through the Soup Line and will be used by the group serving that evening. See you on Wednesdays during Lent!

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UMW Events

The UMW Program this month is collecting for Safe Harbor. Please bring Food/Paper Products for the basket at the church.

MEETING
February 18th
2:00 p.m. Wednesday

Hostesses: Gloria Pharis and Kay Brandt.

Upcoming Events will be World Day of Prayer on March 5th hosted by the Presbyterian Church this year. The North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial is March 26-28, 2004 in Chicago, IL.

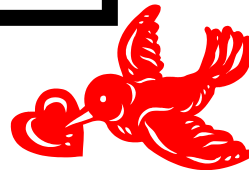
UMW Sunday is February 8th

March Work Committee

Darlys Kampa 397-6996
Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt
397-2770
Joyce & Allen Walter & Holly
397-8341
Arlene Boehmer 397-8295
Rodney Boehmer 397-8200
Adeline & Gene Cassels 294-5348
Roger Colestock
DeLoris Knoll 397-2681
JoAnn & Richard Krueger 397-8597
Jean Lowary 397-8228
Ruby & Eugene Luce 397-8237
Michelle & Chuck Padfield 397-8108
Vicki & William Podoll,
Chris & Jennifer 226-2514
Twila Ruden 397-8391



Missions Committee
Meets February 8th
7:00 p.m. at the Church



Crystal & Doug Sippel 397-4422
Doris Strom 397-8367
Deb & Todd Thurston 397-8167

Honorary Members

Earl Lowary 397-8228
Ruby Fuller 397-8393
Emery Sippel 397-8614
Lorraine Bartz 397-8345
Herron Smith 298-5614

March Extra Responsibilities

March 14th serve coffee at Beverly Healthcare
Shovel snow from doorways before Church
Clean the kitchen
Order Easter Lilies



Health Kits

- 1 hand towel (15x25 up to 17x27)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket size)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clipper (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper)
- 1 large tube toothpaste (4-7 ounces and check expiration date must be 6 months or longer in advance of the date of shipment to UMCOR)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

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.



Conde Administrative Council Minutes

The Conde Administrative Council met January 21st, 2004 with Chairman Darrel Haskell presiding. There were ten members present.

OLD BUSINESS:

The roof repair has been completed and paid for at the cost of \$4420.

Ash Wednesday service will be at 8:00 p.m. on February 25th. (This was a change in time.)

The Christmas Eve Offering (\$225) will be used for Conde's portion of expenses to serve the "Banquet" in Sioux Falls in June.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES—Four of the committees had met prior to the Council meeting. The chairman from each group gave a report of the ideas that had come out of their meetings.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson—Marsha Murphy

Start an interdenominational youth group.

Adult Lenten Study February 22-March 28 held after 9:00 Church Service.

Sunday School children are learning the Lord's Prayer in sign language.

Confirmation Class—Make this available to youth even if their parents aren't members of the Church.

Sharing Calendar for February 29-March 21

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson—Donna Hearnen

Overall philosophy is to make Mission Projects known and available, so that mission giving can be a voluntary and individual commitment.

Observe the six Special Sundays (Human Relations was observed Jan 18)

Continue the 4th Sunday World Hunger offering.

Mission Moments—A brief moment during Sunday Service for uplifting thoughts about Missions or to give information about an upcoming project.

Collect food items for Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Redfield all year.

UMCOR Kits—Set aside a block of time for collecting items or money for each kit.

Observe SOUPER BOWL Sunday with collection of cash going to Salvation Army in Aberdeen and collection of food items to food pantry in Redfield.

MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM

Chairperson—Patty Knoll

Sunday Brunches—Feb 8 (UMW Sunday), March 7, and April 11 (Easter)

Personal care packages for local persons in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Household help or meals for local persons who are sick, aged, or disabled.

Prayer needs—Persons gather and discuss problems and needs of others and then offer intercessory prayers.

Children participation in Church Service (singing).

TRUSTEES

Chairperson—Norman Smith

Acquire a safe to store Church record books and ten years of minutes from Board Meetings and Financial Records

ASSESSMENT OF PLANNING MEETING WITH REV. JAMES PERSONS

Rev. Piehl felt the meeting had gone well and asked for a reading of the ideas that Conde had written for the question, "What are some things you would like to see happen in your church?"

Food taken to shut-ins or help given to them.

Volunteer Mission project.

Mother's Day Out (Caring for small children on one day every 3rd month).

Lessons for youth in doing craft items (some of the lost arts)

Teen Center for all denominations

Living Skills taught to both boys & girls.

Bible Study throughout the year and not just special seasons.

Banquet in Watertown (gain more information & then support it)

Lay participation in Sunday morning service.

Lenten activities (possibly a simple fellowship meal during the week)

Have the Church building accessible for church & community activities.

Rev Piehl suggested that the Council pick at least one idea from the list and implement it right away. It was decided that we begin Lay participation in Sunday morning services by reading scripture as specified by the Pastor.

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Conde UMW Minutes

The Conde UMW met on Wed, January 21, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. with seven members and two guests, Janet Ros-sow, and Rev. Piehl present.

Jane Worlie gave the lesson, MISSION IN THE 21ST CENTURY, the Pledge Service for 2004. We are encour-aged to live out the teachings and ministry of Jesus in our communities and throughout the world by being involved in mis-sion and mission projects, provide mission resources, and expand concepts of mission. Pledge cards were filled out and handed in.

Hostesses Donna Hearnen and Betty Jensen served a noon luncheon after which the business meeting was held.

Our new President, Donna Hearnen, opened the meeting with devotions taken from the Conference Devotional Booklet.

Thinking of You cards were sent to Irene Pfaff, Darlene Meyer, Ivy Nogle, Layle Evans, and Chuck Trapp.

Donna had revised the prayer chain list and passed out the new copy.

Esther Circle had met and suggested that the afghan given to them by Sharon Ragels Lasley be auctioned off by silent auction at a soup and sand-wich supper. The members were receptive to the suggestion and picked February 29th, Leap Year Day, serving from 4:30—6:30. Pat Siefken and Donna Walter will chair the event.

February 8th is UMW Sunday. Betty Taylor, program chair, is in charge of planning the service. The UMW will also serve a noon brunch.

Donna named projects she would like to see carried out this year: Cele-brate 135 years of Women in Mission, encourage readers to use the book list, see that college churches have the names of our college students, pro-mote camps for mothers & kids, promote Love Ribbons, make quilts and bears to take to Conference.



Next Meeting
February 18th
11:00 a.m.
Call to Prayer and
Self Denial Lesson

CONDE UMC MISSION STATEMENT

The Conde United Methodist Church is a body of believers seek-ing 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.

Wednesday
February 4th
Esther Circle at 2 p.m.
Martha Circle at 8 p.m.

Donna announced that Debra Green, Red-field is our Shepherdess this year.

It was decided to again have a play for the May Fellowship, the date selected is May 7th. Patty Knoll said she would be the director.

The February 18th meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. with a luncheon at noon. The Call to Prayer and Self Denial lesson will be given by Marjorie Wright. Hostesses for the noon luncheon are Pat Siefken and Joyce Haskell.

The meeting was brought to a close by joining hands and repeating the Mizpha Benediction

<http://gbgm-umc.org/WOMENS-DIVISION/>



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Souper Bowl Sunday

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those persons without a bowl of soup to eat.” This prayer offered by a young seminary intern at the Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC in 1990 gave birth to the idea of “Souper Bowl Sunday”. That year only Columbia churches participated. In 1991 the effort went statewide and in 1993 it became a national event.

On Sunday, February 1, 128 million people all over the world will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food,

friendship and fellowship, but at the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. By the simple act of putting a dollar in the soup pot which will be available at the Conde United Methodist Church, you will be joining people all over the United States as they demonstrate God’s love by loving their neighbors through “Souper Bowl of Car- ing”.

Each participating Church will choose a charity to send their offering, but a report is sent to the National Souper bowl Headquarters, so they can deter-

mine a national total.

The Conde church has chosen the Aberdeen Salvation Army as the recipient of the cash collec- tion, and in addition they are ask- ing for a food item which will go to the good Samaritan Food Pan- try in Redfield.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- Feb. 3 - Shannon Haskell
- Feb. 4 - Donna Walter
- Feb 5. - Richard Sanderson
- Feb 7. - Bill Trapp
- Feb 10- Jolene/Alan Townsend
- Feb 12 - Norb Hearnen
- Feb. 22 - Betty Jensen
Horace Walter
- Feb 25 - Charles Taylor

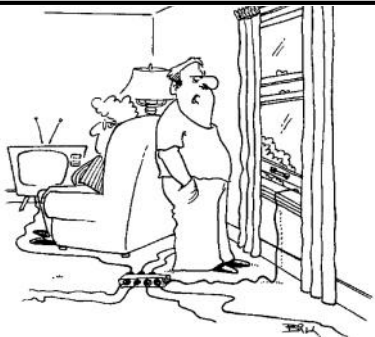
Leap Year Lunch

The Conde UMW is plan- ning something special for that extra day in February 2004. On Sunday, February 29, 4:30—6:30, there will be a Soup & Sandwich meal in the Fellowship Hall in Conde. Some warm food and fellow- ship will be just what every-

one needs on a cold wintry afternoon.

Besides the good food, there will be some items available for Silent Auction. The number of things will depend on how busy those little fingers will be in the

next month. So, Conde la- dies, let’s get creative. You don’t need to be a UMW member, as man non- members have special talents. A beautiful crocheted afghan is one item that is certain to be on display for silent bids.



“Well, Pastor Lentz just unplugged our extension cord from his exterior outlet and he’s heading over with a less-than- pleased look on his face. Maybe he wasn’t sincere about helping us out with our electric bill.”

**Wesley & Dolores Grimes
55th Wedding Anniversary**

**Come & Help Celebrate
Saturday, February 14th
2:00—4:00 p.m.**

At the Conde Church

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Charge Conference
Books available at
both Churches

Valentine's
DAY

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Home is where the heart is. Especially in February."
from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

February Church Happenings

- 1 - Souper Bowl Sunday
- 4 - Conde Esther Circle 2:00
Conde Martha Circle 8:00
- 8 - UMW Sunday
Conde Brunch
Groton Mission Committee 7:00
- 11 - Groton Ad Council 7:30
- 14 - Happy Valentines Day
Wes & Delores Grimes 55th Anniversary
Celebration 2:00-4:00—Join Us!
- 18 - Conde UMW 11:00
Groton UMW 2:00
Conde Ad Council 7:00
- 22 - Conde Lenten Study 10:00
Mary Hayenga Beverly Worship & Coffee
Newsletter Items Due
- 25 - Ash Wednesday Lent Starts
Groton Lent Worship 6:30
Groton UMYF 6:30
Conde Lent Worship 8:00
- 29 - Conde Lenten Study 10:00
Conde Leap Year Dinner/Silent Auction
4:30-6:30



On Superbowl Sunday, the Epistle reading at a Congregational Church in Virginia was Corinthians 7:29-31: "Those who have wives should be as though they had none." Pastor Dinges paused and remarked, "I did not choose this passage because it is Superbowl Sunday," and added that the Apostle Paul wasn't giving approval for men to ignore their wives during the Superbowl.



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