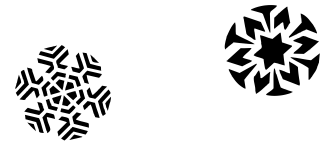


Groton/Conde UMC Newsletter



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY 2004

Pastor Piehl's Message

If your Christmas season was like ours, it was of course rushed, but also a lot of good times. There was the usual, preparation for Christmas church events, like Sunday Worship, and Christmas Eve and other events. There is the personal preparation of house cleaning and decorating, cooking of favorite foods, sending of cards and the list goes on. Then in the matter of a very few days, it is all done. In a way it is



good to get back to the routine of things and on to a 'normal' schedule. New Year's is upon us and we begin the sort of planning that is necessary for all of next year. What do we hope to accomplish? Small or great, some degree of first planning and then effort is required. Where do you hope to be a year from now? Personally? Educationally? Financially? Business wise? Spiritually?

Yes the Spiritual does require planning too. If you want to become a little more of a Bible scholar, it will require reading time, perhaps a study class or two. We can improve, be better than we are today. If you want to see answered prayers, you will need to pray, and then keep track of how



your prayers are answered. Sometimes it is a long time before we see the answers. Have a favorite, "Why doesn't the church do something about?" project? It could be God is speaking to and through you to accomplish it.



Write down a few of these, not as New Year's Resolutions, because they are gone about as fast as the day, but write them down so that in a month progress can be checked and celebrated. Then check again in three months, and six and a year. You will likely be pleasantly surprised.

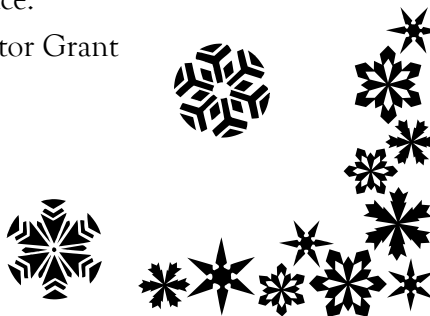
It feels good to know we have accomplished something worth while in our spiritual life and that we can note it, sometimes measure it and celebrate it. Give it a try. You will be pleasantly surprised.



A Happy and Spiritually Prosperous New Year to you!

Peace.

Pastor Grant



Newsletter is in color on the website and many other announcements occur there every week.. Check it out.

You can receive the bulletin in your e-mail box in Word format every week and be able to read the weekly announcements even if you have to miss the service. Just send an e-mail request for this to the church.

Sympathies to the
family of
Bob Jensen

Christmas Program 2003



Groton Ad Council

The following items were on the agenda Dec. 10th:

- The Mission Statement was read in unison by the 11 members present.
- UMW Pres. Linda Thurston shared a synopsis of the year's accomplishments. Installation of 2004 officers will be held at the meeting on January 21st at 2:00 pm.
- Lay Leader Carna Atherton-Pray noted that service time changes to 11:00 am starting January 4th. She also stated there will be a change in the order of worship at future church services.
- The choir is having practices, and arrangements have been made to present special music December 21st by soloist Amanda Swenson, and a quartet. There will be special music Christmas Eve as well.
- Chairman of the Trustees, Tyke Nyberg, announced that there is a need to replace the church front doors. Cost of steel doors will be approximately \$1,200. Installation will not be made until Spring, and some further sealing of the present doors will be attempted in the interim.
- The Mission Committee reported that the free-will offering of \$500 at the Community Thanksgiving Dinner is being divided equally between The

Banquet and the local Crisis Fund.

- Rev. Piehl announced that the District Superintendent will be in Groton for a combined parish meeting on January 20th at 7:00 pm. The Administrative Councils of both churches and the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee will be involved. The general purpose of the meeting is to evaluate and discuss future goals.
- He also reported that co-chairmen for the UMYF starting in January will be Lars and Kelli Hanson and John and Meri Erickson.
- The net profit from the Men's Dinner is \$1,962.22. Use of the funds is not yet designated.
- Chairman Bill Brotherton thanked the committee members for their work and assistance during the past three years.
- The next Administrative Council meeting will be January 13th, 2004 at 7:30 pm with Mary Hayenga presiding as Chairman.



Groton UMYF will be getting organized in January! Watch the Bulletin for further details or contact the new counselors.

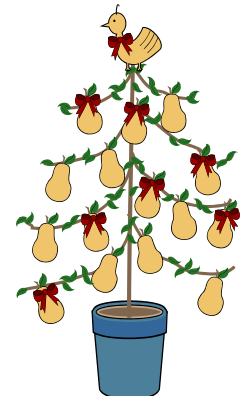
Lars & Kelli Hanson

John & Meri Erickson

Groton UMW Minutes

Linda Thurston, Jolene Townsend, Twila Ruden, and Clare Brotherton were hostesses for the United Methodist Women's Christmas luncheon and program Wednesday, December 11th at noon. Rev. Piehl gave the program on the origin of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." It was an underground

catechism and when each of the twelve items in the rhyme was explained the familiar song took on new meaning. Also a narration, "Dear Santa", tracing a girl's thoughts as she ages was presented. Readers were Clare Brotherton, Mary Swisher, Gloria Pharis, and Jolene Townsend.

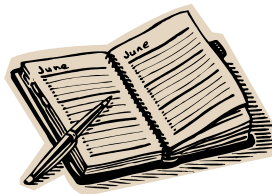


Church Happenings

- J Jan 7th—Conde Martha Circle meets at the church at 8:00 p.m.
- J Jan 7th—Conde Committee Chairs will meet 7:00 p.m. at the church.
- J Jan 11th—Birthday Celebration for Norm Thurston 10:00-11:00.
- J Jan 11th—Groton Potluck Dinner with Work Committee.
- J Jan 14th—Groton Ad Council 7:30 p.m.
- J Jan 17th—Bishops' Children's March at the Capital in Pierre
- J Jan 18th—Human Relations Day Special Offering
- J Jan 18th—Groton Church De-Decorating at 10:00. All members are encouraged to help the work committee.
- J Jan 20th—Conde/Groton Ad Councils and Pastor Parish meet at 7:00 with District Supt. James Persons.
- J Jan 21st—Conde UMW General meeting at the church at 11:00 a.m. Luncheon served by Donna Hearen and Joyce Haskell. Short business meeting to follow and all are urged to attend.
- J Jan 21st—Conde Ad Council Meets
- J Jan 25th—Newsletter Items Due
- J Jan 21st—Groton UMW meets at 2:00 p.m.



February 1st



February Work Committee

Caralee & Gary Heitmann	397-8634	Ward Sperry	397-4410
Kim & Craig Weber	397-8675	Brent & Christie Swenson,	
Karla Pasteur, Jessica & Ali	397-8188	Lee & Amanda	397-4549
Don Bartz	397-2794	Carol & LuVerne Strom*	397-2334
Scott Craig	397-2459	Jean & Vern Walter	397-8358
Carla & Tim Geffre,		Sharon & Larry Wheeting	397-4456
Lucius & Skylar*	397-8446		
Linda & Jay Johnson**	397-8565		
Sue & Bob Kubal*	397-2434		
Charlotte & Art Lange	397-8450		
Brenda & Tony Madsen	397-8484		
Melissa & Neil Gilbert	397-4001		
Gloria & Harry Pharis**	397-2375		
Marjae & Dan Schinkel	395-6645		
Francine & Marc Sippel***	397-2635		



Honorary Members

Barbara & Robert Wegner
Irene Breitkruetz
Lila Bartz

February Extra Responsibilities

February 22
change altar cloths to white

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 UMW Minutes

Conde UMW met at 11:00 on December 3rd. Joyce Haskell led the Christmas lesson "When Christmas Comes to Everyone". It stressed the needs of children around the world. A video "Prayer of the Children" was shown. Several read scripture which led into comments and discussion about children and their various situations

in the world. It was concluded by uniting in the hymn, Come into My Heart Lord Jesus.

Joyce had beautifully decorated the tables and the delicious meal prepared by Betty Taylor, Pat Siefken, Marjorie Wright, and Betty Jensen was enjoyed by all. It was an inspiring and relaxing way to begin the Christmas Season.

The dates for the January meetings are: Martha Circle meets at 8:00 on January 7th. The General meeting at 11:00 a.m. on January 21st. Jane Worlie will lead the Pledge Service—Mission in the 21st Century. Hostesses for the luncheon are Donna Hearnen and Joyce Haskell.

SD Children's March

The January 17th SD Children's March highlights children's issues as the state legislature opens its 2004 session. "It is a way to emphasize to our state leaders that children are important, and we are simply asking them to remem-

ber the children as they make their difficult decisions," Coyner said. Gov. Mike Rounds has given early indications he will be on hand for this non-political activity, according to Coyner. Legislators have also been invited and

several will attend. Arrive about 11:15 a.m. for a free meal and fun music at the First UMC Church in Pierre. Then march to the capitol for a brief program. For more information contact Rev Piehl.

Groton Church
Jan 18th
10:00 a.m.

Taking down the
Christmas
Decorations

Inviting all members
to help the Work
Committee with this
project. Thank You.

Groton UMW Meets

January 21

2:00 p.m. Wed

"Hope for a Brighter
Future"

Installation of Officers

Welcome to New
Members

Executive Meeting at

1:00 p.m.



Newsletter Items for
February are Due
January 25th

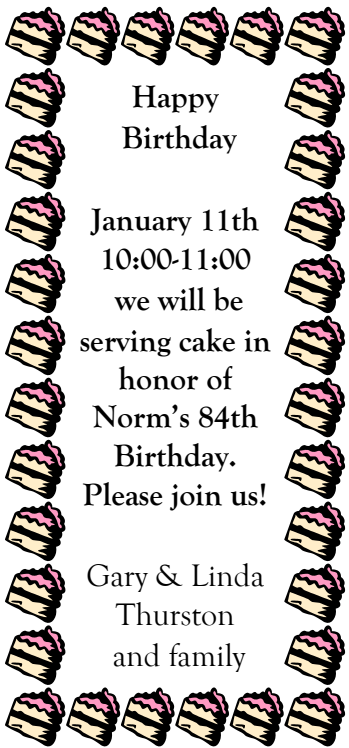


CONDE UMC MISSION STATEMENT

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.

**More Church
Information on
the Website!**



Happy
Birthday

January 11th
10:00-11:00

we will be
serving cake in
honor of
Norm's 84th
Birthday.
Please join us!

Gary & Linda
Thurston
and family

Attention! Groton Board Members

Is it a Board or a Council? Large churches have an administrative board and a program council. The discipline allows smaller churches to combine these into on "Administrative Council", One meeting each month instead of two!

This means if you have an administrative position in the new year, or if you have a program position, you are part of the meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at

7:30. We will do program reporting and planning and coordination as well as take care of any administrative work that is necessary.

So, we need each of you. The first meeting, we will get organized and plan for the year ahead. No matter what your assignment, we need you! See you there, bring ideas and suggestions for this next year.— Mary Hayenga
President elect of the Administrative Council



A big and heartfelt
"thanks"

To all the people
who have sent us
cards and letters,
gifts and prayers.

We appreciate
your good wishes,
prayers,
and gifts.

Thanks again.

Rev Grant

and

Eileen Piehl