



The United Methodist Messenger

Pastor's Note

Under the category of little known and in our modern society little used facts, even if they are interesting comes this story.

In ancient Israel, where wood was relatively scarce, they used camel and donkey dung as fuel for their fires.

Every young girl learned how to gather the dung, form it into patties, dry them in the sun, then store them for fuel as needed.

Pioneer women in the United States engaged in the same practice. It was the alternative fuel of the early plains.

Dried dung patties burn better when they are salted and placed on a block of salt in an earth oven...

Eventually, the salt loses its ability to make the dung burn. The salt is no longer good for anything and is just discarded. All this information is needed to construct the proper reading scenario for the "salt" passages in the New Testament....

(From John J Pilch's, *Salt of the hearth*," Dr John J. Pilch's Homepage Georgetown University, Georgetown.edu Retrieved April 16, 2004.).

"Salt is good. But if salt has lost its ability to start and maintain fires, how can that ability be restored? This salt is fit neither for the oven, nor for preparing the fuel (the dung heap). People just throw it away" (Luke 14:34-35).

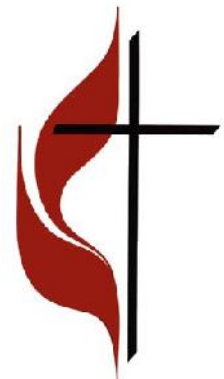
Salt and its many uses and value is also the origin of the expression "He's worth his salt" Or "earning his salt." The ancients knew that salt was an essential element in maintaining health, and its various uses as a food preservative, as a seal for wooden shipping containers, made it an extremely valuable commodity. Today, the salt industry says that the common mineral has about 14,000 different uses, making it the "Swiss army knife" of the mineral world.

With that many uses, each of us who are "the salt of the earth" (Matt5:13). Are likely to be given a different job in life by our Lord. If we each do our similar, but different job. The world will be a better place.

Go and be a "Salty Christian"

Groton/Conde
Parishes

September 2004



**In Memory Of
Joellen Herman**

Thank you for all the years you gave to our church as the secretary and Conde Treasurer. You will be missed. God Bless.


**You are the
Salt
of the earth.**

Matthew 5:13

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Rally Sunday
Sept 12th - Groton




Sunday School will be watching a Movie called "The Promise" explaining the Heifer Project. Each child will receive a calendar and bank for the Heifer Project as they learn more throughout the coming weeks. The Sunday School Offering will go to help complete School Kits for the In-gathering.

Adult Discussion Group Will meet at 10:15 in the coffee room and move to an available room. Leadership will be shared. Topics will follow the interest of the group. Each Sunday will be a unique discussion topic so you can come whenever you want.

Worship will take on a new look and style as our bulletin has some exciting changes. Join Us and see what is new! We will also be singing hymns that all ages will know and enjoy.

Potluck and Fellowship will follow Worship. So come and feel the



The Story of Ruth

Ruth was a Moabite who married an Israelite. When her husband died, she was free to return to her people. But Ruth was devoted to her mother-in-law, Naomi, and to the God of Israel. She refused to leave Naomi. Because Ruth was faithful, God blessed her.

Look up these passages in Ruth (NIV), and fill in the blanks with the missing words. Then use the circled letters to find the name of Ruth's famous great-grandchild.

1. *Ruth 1:5* ... both Mahlon and also died and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.
2. *Ruth 1:20* "Don't call me ,- 3. *Ruth 1:18* When Naomi realized that Ruth was to go with her, she stopped urging her.
- 4. *Ruth 2:1* Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of , whose name was Boaz.
- 5. *Ruth 3:1* One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well for?"
- 6. *Ruth 3:9* "Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said, "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a - redeemer."
- 7. *Ruth 2:14* At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine .- 8. *Ruth 4:9* Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon."
- 9. *Ruth 4:13* So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the Lord her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

Answer: Kilion, Naomi, determined, standing, provided, kinsman, vinegar, witnesses, enabled; King David

Education never ends

In September, Christian education programs will be in full swing in most churches. Pastors, Christian education leaders and teachers are always delighted to see full classrooms of children learning about Christ, faith and the Christian way. Many parents make sure their kids get to Sunday school class, yet don't attend a class themselves.

Learning about Christ is a lifelong pursuit. It doesn't end when we grow up. If we are to love God with our minds as well as our hearts, our souls and our strength, we should keep learning even into old age. We need to be well informed about our faith, our church and its beliefs so that we can express to non-Christians what Christianity is.

We love God with our minds when we know the Bible, when we understand what we believe and when we're able to tell others the reason for the faith we embrace.



Groton UMYF will be starting Soon!

Watch for Meeting Time to be announced.

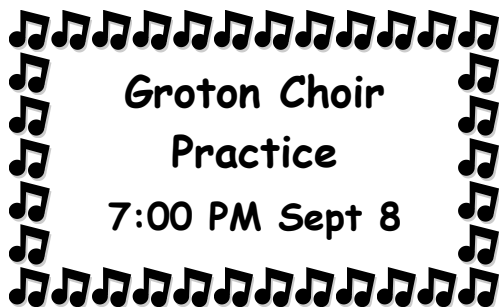
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Memorial Tree Planting

In honor of the late Earl Ruden, there was a memorial tree planting at the Trinity Episcopal Church Open House on August 22nd. Earl was the church's caretaker for many years. Pictured are Carna Atherton-Pray and Brad Ruden planting the tree with Twila looking on.

The Brown County Historical Society is raising funds to restore the building. Donations are tax deductible and can be made out and mailed to the "Episcopal Church Project" C/O Brown County Historical Society, PO box 395, Aberdeen, SD 57402.



Groton Choir
Practice
7:00 PM Sept 8

Ingathering for World Hunger

Saturday, September 18, at the Christen Wellness Center, Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD. 8:30 am will be special music by pianist Tyler Andrews from Fargo, ND. 9:00 am will be worship with featured speaker Cathy Brechtelsbauer, the SD coordinator of Bread for the World. 10:30 am is the auction of handmade quilts plus other creations in wood, glass, and

fabric. A silent auction will be held throughout the day for many beautiful items. Coffee, pie, and ice-cream will be served throughout the day. Rolls, coffee, and lunch will be served by the Mitchell United Methodist Youth.

Saturday
September 18th

Sponsored by the Dakotas conference of the United Methodist Church, the Annual Ingathering for World hunger has generated annual cash gifts for agencies like the Banquet (Sioux Falls), Cornerstone (Rapid City), Salvation Army (Aberdeen & Huron), The banquet (Pierre), and the Tree of Life (Mission) as well as other hunger agencies in North and South Dakota. Fifty percent of the Ingathering receipts go to world hunger projects, 25 percent to international Heifer Project, and 25 percent to local hunger agencies. Last year's ingathering raised \$208,754.

are offered in a silent auction that continues throughout the day.

While auction-goers bid for quilts and crafts, volunteers are packing thousands of dollars worth of donated relief supplies. All year local United Methodist church groups assemble kits containing school supplies, sewing materials, hygiene supplies, or baby layettes. Volunteers will load more than 7,000 kits worth about \$100,000 for shipment to the UMCOR Depot. There the relief supplies are loaded in shipping containers bound for disaster and poverty areas both in the United States and around the world. Then, in cooperation with relief efforts of local governments and US relief agencies, the donated supplies are distributed in areas suffering natural disasters.

In addition to quilts and pillows, craftsmen and women will be bringing carvings, wooden toys, stained glass, and other creations, organizers said. Personal checks as well as Visa and MasterCard are accepted. Hundreds of items

Fall: Time to Start Again

School starts, Sunday School starts, corn and bean harvest starts. Time to consider that part of our mission statement that speaks to adult study and learning so that we can grow in our faith. Opportunities of do this include the morning men's group, UMW for women and a new Sunday morning discussion time starting Rally Sunday at 10:15 meet in the coffee room and move to an available room. Leadership will be shared. Topics will follow the interest of the group. Each Sunday will be a unique discussion topic so you can come whenever you want.

Our needs as a church continue. You have been very generous with your prayers, your presence, your service and your

gifts. The church shows that you all care about it. We have, however fallen behind in our conference apportionment. That means we are asking other churches to pay our fair share. Since larger churches pay a larger share and smaller ones a smaller share, none of them find it easy to carry our share as well. Most of that money pays costs of our having a pastor assigned. It covers health insurance and pension costs and the administrative costs of having pastors for the churches. Some of that goes to mission, and some supports programs like camping. But most of it comes back to us through having a pastor appointed here. Can you find a way to help us catch up and continue to pay our way as a part of the United

Methodist Church? Do you have a good idea that would be a great fund raiser to fund our over due payments? Should Groton be asking other churches to pay our way?

And let's move on to celebrate all that is going on in the church to further the work of the Kingdom. Lefse makers working hard, Teachers preparing to teach, work committees faithfully doing the chores, pastor leading us weekly in worship, organist adding beauty to each service, Cleaners cleaning, mowers mowing, planners planning...it should be a great year! We are truly Blessed by the efforts of each of you. Thanks, Mary Hayenga, Ad. Council Chair



Igniting Ministries

For two weeks, beginning Sept 6th, there will be spot ads on many TV stations. The Weather Channel is scheduled for most of the ads, with CNN, Headline News, HGTV, TBS, and TV Land.

www.ignitingministry.org/advertising/tvschedule.aspx

Cheerful old Frank Jones

He was in his mid-80s, wrinkled as an old washboard, and he used a walker to drag along his crippled leg. Although he lived all alone, he was intensely happy. He had a host of friends, many of whom visited him regularly because he gave them a spiritual lift. He dubbed himself "Cheerful Old Frank Jones."

His pastor came for the same reason. "The man is a true saint," the pastor said to his wife and friends. And, the pastor confessed, old Frank had taught him a lesson.

Each time the pastor called on the joyful fellow, Frank handed him his church envelope containing his gift for the church. One day the pastor thought, "Frank probably needs the money more than the church." So the pastor suggested to Frank that the church was doing well financially and really didn't need his gift.

Old Frank smiled, handed his envelope to the pastor and said, "Pastor,

Groton Stewardship Report

August 2004

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,297

Needed Weekly to
Meet Church Needs
\$1,765

Average Weekly
Attendance
67

Total Building Fund
Offerings
\$140

Groton Ad Council Minutes - August 11th Agenda

Gloria Pharis reported that 30 children are enrolled in Sunday School. Rally Day is Sept 12th. The children will bring materials for school kits the first day. Plans are being made to have an adult class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am.

Membership records on the church computer have been completed and updated.

Carna Atherton-Pray stated that the Music & Worship Committee is planning changes to be made to the order of service for the Sunday bulletin. They are also working on changes in the music portions of the worship hour. Planning for Advent will start soon, and new decorations are being considered.

Tyke Nyberg reported that the Trustees did the annual parsonage inspection in June. Minor repairs to be done include two broken window closures which have been ordered, and all the trim needs to be painted. An electrician examined the church kitchen stovetop burners and found them to be in satisfactory

working order. The repair of the cement sidewalk on the east side of the building has been done. The committee is awaiting an estimate on changing the church roof, rather than repairing the present roof at an estimated cost of \$5,000.

Finance Committee Chairman Allen Walter noted that monthly operating expenses have exceeded the monthly offerings, leaving Conference Apportionments (\$2,064.17/month) unpaid for three months. A plan of action will be finalized at the September meeting.

Joellen Townsend reported that the Missions Committee has set their plans for the final quarter. Work on the Ingathering is ongoing. Additional school bags need to be made.

Rev. Piehl announced that Bishop Coyner has been reassigned to an Indiana location. Bishop Deborah Leider Kiesey has been appointed as his replacement. She will be based in Fargo. There will be a reception

**Groton Ad Council Meeting
September 8th
8:00 PM**



Patriot Day

On December 18, 2001, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day." It's a day to remember the more than 3,000 innocent lives lost on that September morning in 2001.

The resolution requests that each year the President issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities. Those activities include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence, and flying the American flag at half-staff.

In his 2003 proclamation President Bush said, "On that day, and in its aftermath, we saw the greatness of America in the bravery of victims; in the heroism of first responders who laid down their lives to save others; in the compassion of people who stepped forward to help those they had never met; and in the generosity of millions of Americans who enriched our country with acts of service and kindness."



Keep them all in your prayers this Patriot Day.

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.

**A big thank you to all who helped with making lefse on August 23rd & 24th at the Groton Church. It will be sold at the UMW Bazaar this fall.
Twila Ruden**

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Dakotas Conference Builders Club Board of Lay Ministries

Join the Builders Club!

The builders club is continually adding to its membership list. If the Calls were served by 1000 members, the churches in need could be receiving up towards or over \$10,000 per Call!!

The Mission of the Dakotas Conference Builders Club is: To seek to offer helping hands to sister churches who are building or renovating churches and parsonages, or who need help due to natural disasters or emergencies. We trust that members of the Dakotas Conference will continue to give faithful

support to churches in need well into the future.

At the time of the merger of North & South Dakota Conferences, a decision was made by the Board of Lay Ministries to ask members to consider supporting up to four calls per year by contributing at least \$10 to each call. Members are free to choose which of the calls they wish to support, but answering all the calls is strongly urged.

The Board has adopted a list of priorities when handling requests for help from the Builders

Club. They are as follows: 1) emergencies and natural disasters 2) building new churches 3) church building renovations and 4) purchase or renovation of parsonages.

As the request forms come in, they are dated and placed on file according to the priority order. According to the total number of forms submitted and their priority, some may be set back/put on hold. In the event of extreme emergencies, a special call may be made.

Ask Carna Atherton-Pray or Pastor Piehl for the brochure and information to Join Today.

Thinking about Labor Day

The Bible affirms the importance of work. Adam was put in the garden “to till and keep it.”

In the fourth commandment we are told to “Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.” Then we read: “Six days you shall labor and do all your work” (Exodus 20:8-9 NRSV).

Work is important for us. It allows us to use our talent, our minds and our strength to create and bring forth the “fruits” of our labor. Work satisfies an inner need to make a positive contribution to the world. Work helps to bring satisfaction and fulfillment to us as we use our lives for good and uplifting purposes. It is a way of exercising good stewardship of the personal gifts God has given to us: our brain power, our physical strength, our special talents.

Since we have the privilege of being “workers together with God” it seems fitting that we set aside one day a year to think about the goodness and dignity of work. Therefore, let us joyfully celebrate Labor Day.



October Church Committee - Groton

Marjorie & Roger Overacker

Laurel & Monte McNickle & Murdock

Jeanne Wanous

Kay & Ben Brandt & Angela

Marva & Lon Gellhaus

Mendy & James Jones

Diann & Brad Morehouse &

Jessie & Desiree

Florran Norris

Christine & Sherwin Nyberg

Jack Oliver

Ann & Gerald Rix

Betty & Charlie Strom

Dwight Strom

Ruth Thompson

Richard Voss

Marsha & Wayne

Wienk

Honorary Members

Clara Rix

Margaret Blader

Dick & Gert Ruden

Eunice Sperry

October Extra Responsibilities

) Hang Communion Banners for Oct 3rd World Communion Sunday

) October 10th Serve Coffee at Beverly Healthcare.

) Care for lawn as needed.

) Clean Storage Room off the Fellowship Hall

October 2004						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Groton UMW Sept 15th Meeting

7:30 PM, Wednesday

The Pledge Service Program will be presented by Clare Brotherton & Caroline Snyder.

Carol Strom and Anita Lowary will be the hostesses. We will be planning the UMW Bazaar.

There is a Dakotas Annual Conference Meeting in Jamestown on Oct 8-9th.

Executive Meeting at 6:30 PM to continue planning the 2005 Date Book, Finalize the Slate of Officers, and Newsletter Updates.

Congratulations on the Baptism of Christina Caroline Zoellner, daughter of William & Wanda Zoellner, Groton.



UMW 135 Years

We celebrate 135 years of United Methodist Women. Women give to undesignated mission giving. What is undesignated mean? Undesignated simply means unrestricted with no strings attached. This is mission money used for any part of our mission work. The funds are budgeted and spent equally among all the mission programs by national level, which is Women's Division.

United Methodist Women provide 40 percent of the budget of the world and national Divisions of the Board of Global Ministries. We provide funds for ministries to

woman and children at home and abroad: children who live in poverty, who go to bed hungry each night, who live in substandard housing or on the streets, who come home after school to an empty house. Because of the monies supplied through United Methodist Women, these and many other issues are being addressed. Units, who send funds through the Five Channels of Undesignated Giving, become Five-Star units. The channels in United Methodist Women which is given to Undesignated giving are through the **Unit Pledge**, **Special Mission Recognition** - rec-

School Kits

- 1 pair blunt scissors - rounded tip
- 2 pads (spiral or loose leaf) of 8 1/2 x 11 paper
- 1 30cm ruler
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 eraser 2 1/2 inches
- 12 sheets construction paper
variety of colors
- 1 box 24 crayons (must be 24!)

12 X 14 Cloth Bag with a Velcro Closure Pattern can be found on our website or ask the office for a copy.

Monetary Donations are always accepted to help finish partial kits.



ognizing an individual who has worked hard in mission, **Gift to Mission Cards** - buying a card for \$5 for birthday, thank-you and so on, **Gift in Memory** - sending a gift in memory of individual who has died, and World Thank Offering - usually lose change.

Conde United Methodist Women

President Donna Hearnen opened the August 18th meeting with devotions on aging taken from the Conference devotional booklet.

Cards were sent to JoEllen Herman and her family and also to Ivy Nogle.

The lesson EXODUS—MOVING FORWARD was led by Betty Jensen. Questions were asked, what would you do when you were at an impasse caught between the devil and the deep blue sea? And what insight have you gained from the scripture?

Jane Worlie was selected to receive the special recognition pin for her participation in the missions of our church.

Betty Taylor reported on the lunch served during the school reunion.

Pat Siefken reported that she and Cindy Smith had taken part in the Mission Encounter in Watertown on August 2. They visited and took part in things going on at the Safe House and ended the day by helping to serve the evening meal at the Lutheran church, similar to the Banquet in Sioux

Falls.

It was voted on to give Care Packages to the teachers at Conde School as a part of the District Project. It was also decided on to finish up the health kits for the InGathering and to make more school bags. Our \$50.00 mission money donation will go to the District Treasurer for undesignated giving.

The Committee on Nominations is instructed to meet before the next meeting.

Joan Fahrenwald served a delicious dessert and coffee for

Ivy Nogle is celebrating her 95th birthday on September 24th. Cards may be sent to her at: W217, 5800 St. Croix Ave. Golden Valley, MN 55422

**September 15th
7:00 PM
Conde
Ad Council
Meeting**

Pensions/Benefits Workshop
Aberdeen First UMC
September 15th

WALK TO EMMAUS: Need Spiritual Help? Upper Room sponsors Walk to Emmaus. Women's weekend is at Storm Mountain Camp, October 7-10. For more information, contact registrar Deanna Gerdes, 2200 Bailey, Sioux Falls, SD 57107. Email: deanna-paul@hotmail.com or go to www.dakotasumc.org and click on "Got Faith."

Conde Ingathering Kits

Please have your kits for Ingathering at the Conde Church as soon as possible. Also, we need bags for the school kits. For this, contact Donna Hearnen. More health kits are needed—either purchase products or financial help would be appreciated. We can discuss this at worship on Sunday mornings. Thank you.

**District UMW
Meeting
September 25th
at Hitchcock
Contact your UMW
President for more
information by
Sept 21st if plan to
attend. Rides
Shared.**

**Conde UMW
September 15th
1:00 PM
At the Eastern Star
Home in Redfield
We will present a program
and serve lunch. Watch for
Notices of Shared Rides.**

Welcome Celebration for Bishop Deborah L. Kiesey

Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey has been appointed to serve the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church for the next four years.

Kiesey has been superintendent of the Waterloo District in Iowa since 2001. She was elected bishop by delegates to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference meeting here July 15th.

Bishop Michael J. Coyner, who has served the last eight years in the Dakotas, has been assigned to his home state of Indiana. Kiesey was ordained a deacon in 1975 and an elder in 1977 in the Iowa Annual Conference. She graduated from Morningside College in 1973 and received her Master of Divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology in 1976.

Kiesey places high value on collegial leadership: "A leader needs to understand the importance of walking with others. When we work together, listen to one another, and truly allow ourselves to be touched by others' wisdom, we are all the stronger," she wrote in her nominee information. "There are times when a leader must be willing to make the difficult decisions—but only after thorough consultation and prayer."

Kiesey also referenced Methodist founder John Wesley, saying: "His dedication to evangelical and social action, his separation of theological fundamentals from theological opinions, his belief in a heart-centered and mind-centered faith will guide us well into the future. The church based on those principles will be a more diverse, a

more spiritual and more inclusive church."

Election details and an introduction to the new bishop will be featured in the September edition of "Dakotas Connection." If you are not on the mailing list for this four-times-annually publication, please contact the Dakotas Conference Office.

Bishops are charged by the United Methodist "Book of Discipline" to "lead the church in its mission of witness and service in the world." The Book of Discipline is the rule of law for the church. Bishops reported to work in their new areas on September 1st.

A United Methodist bishop serves as a general superintendent of the entire church. Bishops also have the responsibility to see that the rules and regulations developed by General Conference are carried out. Bishops are responsible for setting all clergy appointments in the annual (regional) conferences they serve. Most bishops also serve on a general agency board, often as the president. The bishop is the presiding officer at the annual conference session and they rule on points of law.

October 3, Bishop Kiesey will be the guest preacher at the Aberdeen First UMC.

October 2
Aberdeen First
Church
1:30 PM



Address:

Bishop Deborah L. Kiesey
Dakotas Area Office
3910 25th Street South
Fargo, ND 58104
debkiesey@juno.com

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.

Our Church Happenings

Groton/Conde Parishes



Sept 8 - Groton Choir Practice 7:00 PM

Sept 8 - Groton Ad Council 8:00 PM

Sept 12 - Rally Sunday in Groton with Sunday School, Worship Service, and Potluck

Sept 15 - Conde UMW 1:00 PM at Eastern Star Home in Redfield

Sept 15 - Conde Ad Council 7:00 PM

Sept 15 - Groton UMW Meets 7:30 PM

Sept 15 - Pensions/Benefit Workshop at Aberdeen First

Sept 18 - Ingathering in Mitchell

Sept 19 - Groton UMW presenting "Jewel of a Woman Award" & "Special Recognition" Pin

Sept 19 - Great Sunday of Singing Worship Service

Sept 25 - District UMW Meeting Hitchcock

Oct 2—Meet the Bishop at Aberdeen First UMC 1:30 PM

September



"... and to you late arrivals ... anyone can get to church on time if he tries hard enough."

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