



United Methodist Messenger

January 2005

Groton/Conde Parishes

grotonumc@nvc.net

Resolve in the New Year:

-) To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
-) To look at the sunny side of everything.
-) To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future
-) To wear a cheerful face and give every living creature you meet a smile.
-) To laugh more in 2005.
-) To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
-) To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to allow trouble to distress you.

—Author unknown

Leap of Faith

As I write this it is just a couple of days to the New Year. In a way it is always exciting to start the New Year, still there is never a totally new beginning. We will come to January 1, 2005 with a backlog of problems left over from 2004. There will be the devastation from the Asian flood and earthquake, the problems of war in Iraq. There are always fifty or so major or minor wars going on on our earth at any given time. There will still be needs and poverty and hunger near home and far away. It is more than enough to take the shine of a brand new year.

We will no doubt respond by doing what we can. UMCOR helps us respond to most disasters.

For the disasters that happen in our personal lives we will turn to faith for minor and major happenings. Faith allows us to take what may look like an impossible leap and with the help of Christ to still land on our feet. A great 'no faith' example is the African impala, which can jump to a height of over 10 feet and cover a distance of greater than 30 feet. Yet these magnificent creatures can be kept in an enclosure in any zoo with a 3-foot wall. They will simply not jump if they cannot see where their feet will land. Faith is the ability to trust what we cannot

see, and with faith we are freed from the flimsy enclosures of life that only fear allows to entrap us. The impala could jump out of most zoo enclosures that keep it trapped if it just had the faith to say that there was good solid ground to land on. It could jump, land and run away if it had faith in a solid landing, but it first has to see where its feet will land. Without that faith, it is forever trapped.

As always there are things in the future that make us wonder. There are things that will cause us to take a "leap of faith" trusting in God and his faithfulness. Without faith, any three-foot wall will keep the impala in. New Year? It will come. The future is as bright as the promises of God. Some disasters? They will happen. Some faith in God? You can have it!

Peace.

Pastor Grant



**Large Print
Bulletins are
now available on
Sunday.
Ask an usherer
for one!**

Human Relations Day - January 16th

Human Relations Day was established by the 1972 General Conference to promote support for the Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service and Police-Community Relations programs. Begun in 1968, the three programs formerly had received support from the church wide Bishop's Fund for Reconciliation. In 1989 the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program replaced the Police-Community Relations Program to respond to the growing population of youth offenders and their need for creative redirection.

"We attract families because of the kids. Parents often come in to see what all the excitement is about. Also kids invite other kids. When kids invite their friends, we know it's a good program."

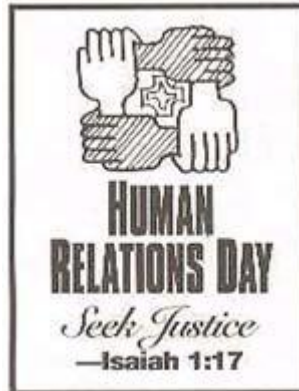
That's how evangelism works best at New Life Community United Methodist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., where Cedric Lewis served as community developer from 2002 to 2004. His successor is Paul Tutweiler.

The congregation's innova-

tive Youth Accessing LUMAS (Leadership, Unity, Mentoring, Arts/Academics, Spirituality) ministry reaches out to school-age children and youth. The free program runs the first three Saturdays of each month during the school year and offers a menu of choices such as choir, dance, life enrichment, structured fun and video games. Forty to 80 children and youth take advantage of the ministry that also includes a hot lunch and time for prayer.

Staffed by trained volunteers from New Life Community and other churches, the five-year-old ministry's "primary focus is to help the kids see Jesus and to help them grow developmentally and spiritually," Lewis says. Several high-school students who attended the program when they were younger now volunteer.

Lewis mentioned one of many success stories. A few years ago a teenager and his parents were experiencing conflict, and a



volunteer intervened. Recently the young man called to say he had graduated from high school and enlisted in the armed forces. He thanked Lewis and his colleagues for "sticking with him."

Your offering on Human Relations

Day provides a secure foundation for God's children of all ages. More than 30 church-based community developers work in racial- and ethnic-minority communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. A multiracial network of grassroots social justice organizations related to United Methodist Voluntary Service provides vital outreach. Christ-centered Youth Offender Rehabilitation projects give teenagers a chance to succeed.

God calls us to lead others to Christ. Please give generously on Human Relations Day, the Sunday before the birthday observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Your gift makes a world of

Facing injustice

As the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., approaches, many cities and many churches will recall the courage and challenge of the civil rights leader who suffered and died for his beliefs.

When he confronted those who dealt out injustice, he and his followers were stopped, jailed, sometimes beaten, ridiculed and threatened. They were called rabble-rousers, Communists, disturbers of the peace and worse. Many people stood by and did nothing.



**Martin
Luther
King Jr.
Day**

It is no wonder that Dr. King said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Whatever else we remember about Dr. King, we should recall that he chose not to remain silent in the

face of injustice. Can we say the same about ourselves?

When anyone is treated without respect, without fair play, without kindness or Christian love, we must not remain mute. We should follow the suggestion of Dr. King: "With our faith, we will transform the jangling discords of our nation into a



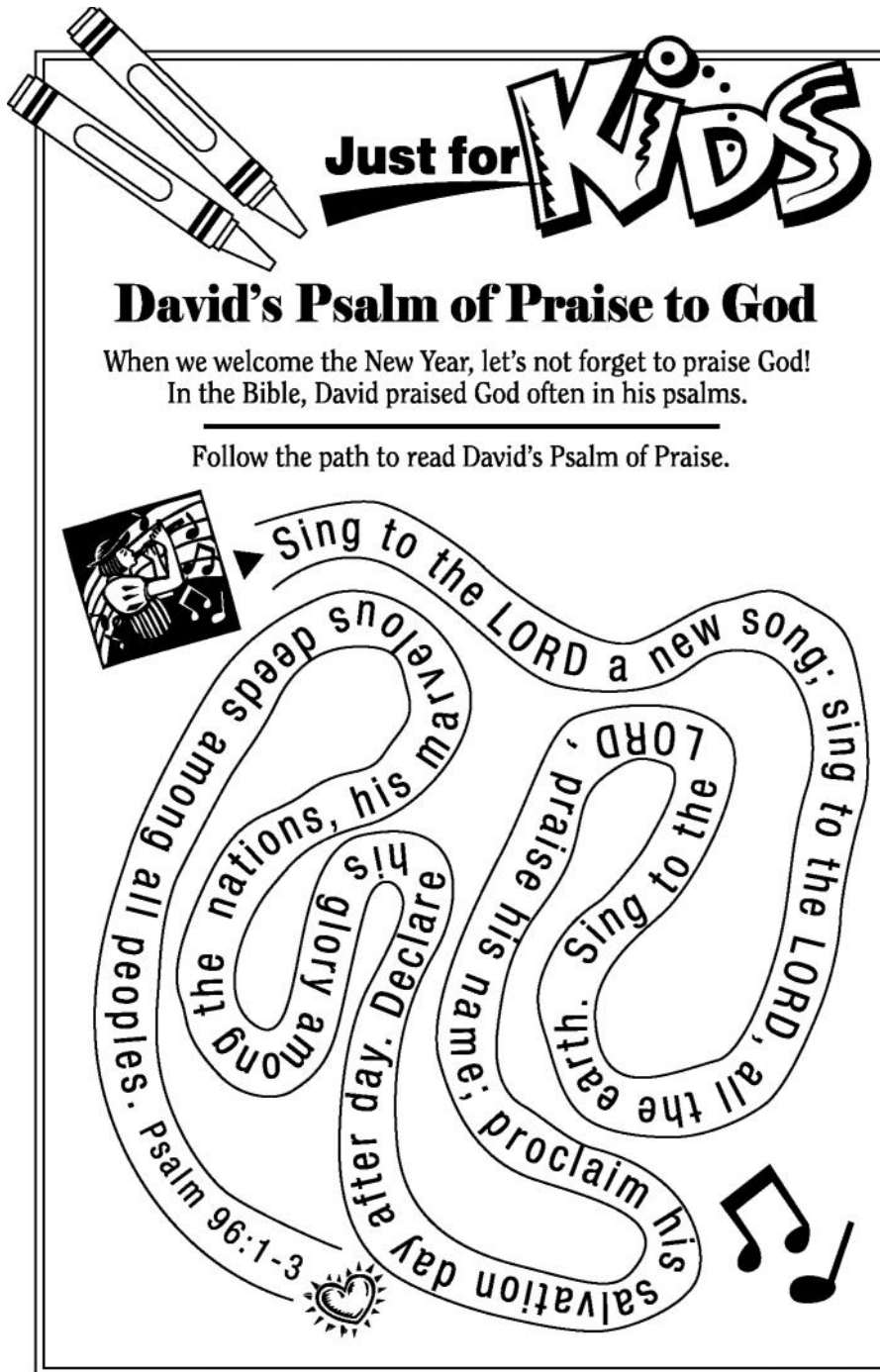
Newsletter in Color on Website





www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc





Conde Sunday School Can Collecting

The Conde Sunday School is collecting cans. The proceeds are going to the Heifer Program. You can drop your cans off at Marsha Murphy's home 425 4th St SW in Conde by her Garage or at Ann Menzia's home 285 Cedar St SW in Conde. We will also make arrangements to pick the cans up if you have some to donate please call Marsha at 382-5608 or Ann at 382-5237. We would like to thank everyone who has donated cans already. We hope to be able to buy a Heifer at the end of the year.

**You may also wish to remove the tabs from the cans for the Ronald McDonald House



Groton UMYF Meeting
January 12th—6:15 PM
Supper Provided

Groton Acolyte Schedule

January 2: Jadyn Geffre and Mitchell Madsen

January 9: Camille Sippel and Katelyn Hawkins

January 16: Kylie Hawkins and Lyndsay Gese

Groton Confirmation Meeting Times

Jan 5—6:00 pm (lunch provided)

Jan 12—7:00 pm

Jan 19—6:00 pm (lunch provided)

Jan 26—6:00 (lunch provided)



February Family Committee

Kay & Ben Brandt, Angela
Crystal & Doug Sippel

JoAnn & Richard Krueger
Ruby & Eugene Luce
Michelle & Chuck Padfield
Marjorie & Russell Townsend
Twila Ruden
Doris Strom
Darlys Kampa
Marie McClintic & Larry
Schnaidt

Joyce & Allen Walter
Pat Dahlquist
Rodney Boehmer
Gene Cassels
Vicki & William Podoll,
Chris & Jennifer
Todd Thurston
Sue & Bob Kubal

Honorary Members
Earl & Jean Lowary
Ruby Fuller

Emery Sippel
Lorraine Bartz
Herron Smith



Extra Responsibilities

Feb 6th—change altar cloths white
Feb 9th—change altar cloths purple
Feb 13th—hang communion banners
Shovel Snow if Needed
Clean coffee/furnace storage rooms
Potluck 2nd Sunday



**I would seek God,
& to God I would
commit my cause."**

J O B 5 : 8

Groton UMW Meeting

Jan 19th - 2:00

Installation of 2005 Officers

"Hope for a Brighter Future"

Welcome to All New Members

Leader: Linda Thurston

Hostesses: Marj Townsend & Jean Lowary

Upcoming Events

UMW Sunday—Feb 6th

Ash Wednesday—Feb 9th

Sewing Kits/Reading Program

Executive Meeting 1:00 pm

Plan UMW Sunday Feb 6th

Plan Activities/Goals



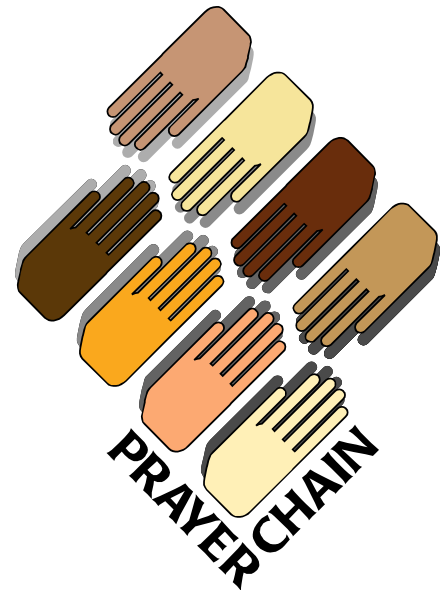
Groton Prayer Chain going E-Mail (If possible?)

Well, we would like the prayer chain to be converted over to email as much as possible. In this busy world it is hard to catch people at home and this way everyone may pray at their own convenience upon receiving the email. Understand that not everyone has email so we would like to shorten the phone list as much as possible so that our prayer chains for concerns and joys can be more effective. Please let Mary Hayenga, Kay Brandt, or the office know if

you want to be on the prayer chain and which one. Those already on the chain will be contacted to see if you can be moved to E-Mail.

The new Email Prayer Chain will be web based so several people can activate it should the need arise. It will not be used for anything other than joys and concerns.

Thank you to my son, Alex, who home from college was able to add this to my website with Perl Script on his Linux computer.



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New and improved

A minister on the Internet, who calls himself simply Pastor Tim, loves to tell jokes. One joke is about a little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap, while he reads a bedtime story to her.

As the child listened, she kept reaching up to her grandfather's face to trace his many wrinkles with her finger. When the story was finished, she looked at him quizzically and said, "Granddaddy, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"God made me too, didn't he?"

"Yes," he affirmed. "God made you not too many years ago."

She then placed one of her hands on her own face, noticed how smooth it was and said,



"I suspected it was done that way."

Six New Year resolutions

1. Forget the past and honor God more.
2. Live for Christ in the world.
3. Trust God with a strong faith.
4. Remain faithful to my church.
5. Witness to the lost.
6. Cultivate the talents God has given me for His glory.



www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc

Happiness Was...

Enjoying a wonderfully clever and humorous version of the Christmas Story at the Conde Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday morning, Dec 19th. Marsha, Ann, and all of your helpers, you did great, and the kids' enthusiastic performance showed that they were enjoying themselves. Thank you for helping to make this Christmas Season special and meaningful. Another Happiness is the presence of the Confirmation kids and their families in Church. Young people and children really do make a Church alive and healthy.



As We Start the New Year

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 Sunday School Christmas Program

On Sunday December 19th the Conde Sunday School performed a Christmas Program titled A Mouse's Tale. The program was about 2 young mice who had a friend Stevie the Sparrow who didn't believe it Christmas. So the 2 young mice asked Granny Mouse to help them explain Christmas to Stevie. The story went back in time to when Granny Mouse was a young mouse and how she was in the stable when Jesus was born. Young Granny Mouse had help from a donkey, a cow, sheep and camels to tell the story of Jesus birth.



Groton Ad Council Dec 1st Minutes

Sixteen members were present on Dec. 1st to consider the following agenda items:

The UMW is participating in the blood drive being held on Dec. 7th. The officers will host a luncheon on Dec. 17th. Instead of a program and business meeting, Christmas treats will be taken to shut-ins.

The UMYF will serve the noon meal after the Sunday School program on December 12th. A free-will offering will be taken as a fund raiser for the group.

The Music & Worship Committee is planning special music for the Christmas Season.

The Trustees report that refinishing of the parsonage windows trim has been completed. The carpet in two basement bedrooms in the parsonage must be replaced due to dampness and mold. A Conde representative will be asked to assist in completing this project.

Replacement of the flat portions of the church roof was discussed. A preliminary estimate for materials only was obtained from S&S Lumber. It was decided that expert advice regarding the total project must be obtained before proceeding further.

Weekly offerings have increased slightly during October and November, but the apportionments are several months in arrears. Seven people have responded to the Pastor's Challenge to give \$500 gifts to aid in

getting current on apportionments by the end of the year. The apportionments share for which this church is responsible is \$2,064.17 per month.

The Missions Committee has collected gifts for the Birthday Cupboard at The Banquet, where disadvantaged children may choose three gifts on their birthdays. The community Thanksgiving dinner was enjoyed by more than 100 people.

According to a recap on the Men's Dinner, more than 300 were served. Net receipts as of Dec. 1st were \$1,632.02. Use of the funds is undesignated at this time.

The Hooks N Needles group who get together weekly to knit and crochet were given permission to use available space at this church for meetings. Anyone interested is invited to join them. Call Kay Brandt.

In response to several requests, there will be a supply of large-print bulletins available at the worship service each Sunday.

Beginning January 5th, worship in Groton will start at 9:00 am. Fellowship and Sunday School will follow at 10:00 am.

The next meeting of this committee will be January 12, 2005, at 8:00 pm.

Groton Stewardship Report Dec 2004

Average
Wkly Giving
\$3,062

Needed Weekly
to Meet Church
Needs
\$1,765

Average Weekly
Attendance
104

Total Building
Fund Offerings
\$290



The price of a pretzel

A woman of modest means was selling pretzels while standing in front of a building in New York City. A businessman decided to help her out. He handed her the asking price of a dollar, smiled and went on without his p r e t z e l .

This became a morning ritual every day for three weeks. He gave her a dollar without taking a pretzel. Then one day, the woman stopped him and said, "Excuse me, sir. May I have a word with you?"

"Oh," he replied, "I know what you're going to say. You're going to ask why I give you a dollar each day and never take a pretzel. Right?"

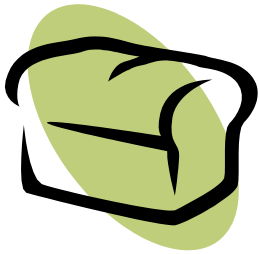
"Not exactly," she replied. "I just wanted to tell you that the price of my pretzels has gone up to a dollar-and-a-quarter."

Prices do go up, don't they? Now that winter is here, and with energy prices rising, churches will likely pay more for heating. Missionaries are short of funds and supplies. Social services of the church (feeding the hungry, finding shelter for the homeless, helping the poor pay medical bills, etc.) need volunteers and money.

We would do well to remember our Lord's words, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35-36, NRSV).

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40, NRSV).

Yes, if the price of pretzels has gone up, the needs of the church should be considered as well.



Groton Pastor's Challenge Update

We made it! Thank you all who helped us meet Rev. Piehl's challenge of 10 \$500 gifts to help us catch up on the Conference Apportionments. Please keep this mission in your prayers during the New Year and may you help us continue to meet this mission need.



**In Conde
7:00 PM
Jan 7th**

Removing of the Greens

Groton UMC Poinsettia Given By In Memory Of...



Mary & Jay Swisher
Their Parents
Joshua, Adam, & Nathan Atherton
Randy Atherton
Art & Audrey Padfield
Daughter & Their Parents
Earl & Jean Lowary
Their Parents
Zachary Barton
Grandfathers: Theran Olson and Milo Barton
Dave & Connie Nilsson & Family & Eunice Sperry
Lester Sperry & Glenn Sperry
Bob & Carolyn Snyder
Our Parents
Alan & Vicki Strom and boys
Our Parents, Lloyd Strom and Casey Clark
Grandparents, Jack & Lydia Clark
Bill & Clare Brotherton
Our Parents
John & Meri Erickson; Seth, Evan, & Sydney
Grandma & Mother, Marlys Sippel
Roger & Margie Overacker
Margarette Clocksene & Ronnie Wallen
Gerald & Ann Rix
Parents and Marion Rix
Allen, Joyce, Michelle, & Holly Walter
Joyce's Parents, Allen's Grandparents, and
Joyce's Brothers – Dale and Reed

Grant & Eileen Piehl
Our Parents – Mr. & Mrs. Lester Piehl
And Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Jones
Gary, Linda, & Rick Thurston
Bill, Ethel, & Jim Knoll
Russell & Marjory Townsend
Our Parents
Cal & Mary Hayenga
Grant & Our Parents
Halley & Taylor Schmidt
Grandpa Merrill Rix
Grandpa & Grandma Schmidt
Harry & Gloria Pharis
Our Parents
Ryan & Amanda Sperry
Glenn Sperry
Craig, Kim, & Jeremy Weber
Ed Weber & Grandparents
Craig Sternhagen Family
Grandpa Tom Sternhagen
Norm & Audrey Thurston
Our Parents
Bert Raap
Darlene Raap
Marlys Rodman
Arlene Boehmer
Twila Ruden
Earl Ruden
Carna & Cliff Pray
Our Fathers, Earl Ruden & Floyd Pray

Conde Ad Council Minutes—December 13th

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Darrel Haskell. Rev. Grant Piehl offered Prayer.

Treasurer's Report: Church expenses continue to run higher than the income received from pledges and weekly offerings. All members and constituents need to be aware of the financial bind that exists in keeping our church alive and healthy.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the November meeting were read and approved.

Trustee's Report: Additional Hand Rails in Bathrooms—The Council had discussed this at the November meeting, and it was now verified that this action should take place. Rails will be added behind the stools.

UMW Report: The General Meeting was held at 11:00 on December 1st. There was a program, lunch, and fellowship with no business meeting. Several guests were invited, and three were able to attend. Upcoming events are: Feb 6th—UMW Sunday and Feb 27—Soup & Sandwich Supper 4:30-6:30.

Education Committee Report: Christmas program on December 19th during Worship Hour. No Sunday School on December 26th and January 2nd.

Mission Committee Report: Money for the layettes are being collected during December. At this time, \$30 has been given. This amount will buy items for one kit. In January, there will be a promotion of Sewing Kits. Persons can either donate money or purchase any or all of the following items: 3 yards of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (can be print or solid color), 1 pair of sewing scissors, 1 package of needles, 1 spool of thread to match the fabric, 6 buttons to match the fabric.

Donations can be given to Habitat for Humanity by placing money in the "Little House" at the back of the sanctuary or by specifying this mission on a check in the collection plate. A good time to do this is on a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary.

The Christmas Eve Offering will be used to help finance the mission project in June when the Conde and Groton churches serve at "The Banquet" in Sioux Falls.

The Conde United Methodist Church is seeking to satisfy the spiritual and physical needs of all.

OLD BUSINESS

Communication Person: A person has been contacted to coordinate news items at take pictures for the Church Newsletter. No decision has been made on this.

Mission Statement: The committee appointed in November met prior to this meeting and reviewed the Mission Statement. The Conference Superintendent, Debra Ball-Kilbourne, had suggested that the current statement was too long. The revised version is as follows: *"The Conde United Methodist Church is seeking to satisfy the spiritual and physical needs of all."*

Potluck Dinners: It was decided that we have a potluck dinner on the 2nd Sunday in the months of Jan, Feb, and March. The following persons volunteered to act as chairpersons: Jan—Cindy Smith, Feb—Jane Worlie, and March—Donna Hearnen.

Christmas Decorations: Any persons who can, should come at 7:00 on Friday, Jan 7th to take down the Christmas Tree and other decorations. Epiphany Sunday is January 9 (second Sunday after Christmas) and Christmas decorations should be out of the sanctuary by this time.

January Council Meeting: Because of Confirmation Classes in Groton, the Council can't meet on Wednesday. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 10th at 7:00.

The meeting closed with prayer by Rev. Piehl. Persons Present at Meeting: Jane Worlie, Rev Piehl, Betty Jensen, Darrel Haskell, Cindy Smith, Pat Siefken, and Donna Hearnen

Secretary, Donna Hearnen

Our Church Happenings

January 2005

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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					



Epiphany

Jan 2—No Sunday School

Jan 5—Groton Confirmation 6:00 pm

Jan 7—Conde De-decorating 7:00 pm

Jan 9—Potluck at Conde & Groton

Jan 9—Conde Confirmation 1:00 pm

Jan 10—Conde Ad Council 7:00 pm

Jan 12—Groton Ad Council 8:00 pm

Jan 12—Groton UMYF 6:15 pm

Jan 12—Groton Confirmation 7:00 pm

Jan 16—Human Relations Sunday

Jan 16—Conde Confirmation 1:00 pm

Jan 19—Groton UMW 2:00 pm (Exec—1:00)

Jan 19—Groton Confirmation 6:00 pm

Jan 23—Conde Confirmation 1:00 pm

Jan 26—Groton Confirmation 6:00 pm

Jan 30—Conde Confirmation 1:00 pm

Feb 6—UMW Sunday

Photos Inside!