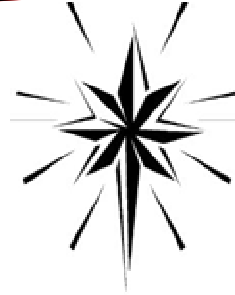


United Methodist Messenger

December 2006

Groton/Conde Parishes

CHRISTMAS



HOPE

On Life

Life is the endless cycle of hope and truth within us all.

The eternal longing to love and be loved which shall never cease.

The obstacle ahead, the knowledge of a better day.

Life is the past; the present, and all that lies ahead in our journey to find truth.

It is the bond that ties us to reality and in turn lets us dream.

Life is grief and sorrow, yet it lets us experience joy and happiness

Life is limitless...life is indescribable.

By Ashleigh, 12
Parras Middle School
Redondo Beach

Here we are in the middle of the Christmas rush full of activities, fun things to be part of and the world is in turmoil, our country is at war and all of life seems to just go on. Our heads are in one place and our hearts in another and it all seems so unreal. I have lived through other wars, four in fact, and they all are heartless means of settling disputes that gained nothing.

This beautiful season, to celebrate the birth of the Christ child, the Savior of the world, come to us in human form, a piece of God, should be shouted from the roof tops. And yet the world goes on seemingly not noticing. A Savior to redeem us to an eternal home through our belief on the ministry and purpose of Jesus Christ... from God. To bring us to someday dwell with God. And the world goes on. . . . A gift that cannot be wrapped, cannot be bought, is a FREE given act of outright LOVE. ... and the world goes on.

It is my hope and deep desire that each person take the time to spend a moment or two and thank God for this unbelievable and unending gift of salvation (to save us) by believing that Christ died for us all. When we ask Christ into our hearts and are willing to find forgiveness for all our sin, we can accept that gift right then. No big thunder, no big star will fall in the sky, just the quiet belief that God heard your heart and wants to have you alongside forever. Take the gift,

offer yourself and be full of the riches of glory and no longer fear what the world fights for.....death. You win, the world loses!

I wish to share a piece of my heart this season. I lost my last parent through death this year and it was a time of bringing our family into great love and harmony for a short time. And as with many families, sooner or later, a rift develops over the settling up of an estate. Our once loving extended family was wounded by incorrect information, distrust, and pride. This season, our family is hurting because we have had pain split us apart. Our prayers are to God and each other over this situation. It is a season of sadness because we are not in harmony and peace with each other. If this is the case in your life, may you reach out for forgiveness. Reach out to change the discord and offer peace to one another.

Our churches, neighbors, families and lives are ready to receive peace and harmony. To function in beauty, unity and experience the joy of loving each other for who we are (and whose we are.) Find peace in your life, as we seek peace once again in our own family. Offer God the situation and see what God can do.

Blessings, as peace comes to the heart and gives us joy once again.

In Christ always in Christ,
Christmas Joy and Love, Pastor Jan

Groton Church Directory



Photos are being taken for a new Church Directory of our Members and Friends. The photographer is Sue Braithwaite (Kubal) so we have more time to get everyone's photo, hopefully by the first of the year! Photos are being taken most evenings Mon-Thurs from 6-8 pm and we will schedule a Sunday the first part of January. There is no obligation to purchase photos.

If you have not been scheduled and would like your photo for Christmas, please call Anita Lowary 397-2495 or Kay Brandt 397-8389 and we will schedule you in. Otherwise, we will continue our calls to schedule in a few weeks when Sue gets caught up with the photos

she has taken so far.

Those living away from Groton will be contacted after the first of the year. We will be asking you for a photo to complete our directory. If you should wish to use a photo that is from a studio, you must get a copyright permission slip in order for us to be able to publish it. Or a family member can take a digital snapshot and email it to us. Anita or Kay can also stop by if you live close by and take a snapshot as well.

If all goes well, we hope to have the directory complete around Easter. Thank you all for making this project a success!

Advent Study

"The scriptures sing of Christmas" is being offered by Pastor Jan on Sunday evenings. Three weeks of Advent with Mary's Song. The Shepherds & Angels, Simeon with Baby Jesus, and the Wondrous Mystery. Meet in the chapel at 7 pm in Groton. Join us when you can. Great time to focus on this season for a one hour duration. Rides can be arranged - let Pastor Jan know.

**The Aberdeen Community
Living Christmas Tree
Performances will be Sat
Dec 2 at 7 pm, and Sunday
Dec 3 at 3 pm & 7 pm at
the Aberdeen Civic Arena**

Eternal light

Christmas occurred when God invaded Earth in a strange and marvelous way. A special child was born to improbable parents in an unlikely place at an inconvenient time and in an unwelcoming world. Yet heaven's light pierced the darkness and shone through the life of that unique baby. That light was and is an eternal light. God's light in Christ is a saving light that can keep the world from total destruction, from the ultimate darkness. The message is always true: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV). And it never will. —Charles Ferrell



What is Christmas?

Christmas is belief in the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.

Never the same again

After the birth of Jesus, the shepherds returned to the same old world from whence they came. Yet, there must have been a new excitement in that familiar world. Life must have taken on new meaning, for no one is ever the same again after being in the presence of the Lord.

Our Church Celebrations



Groton Birthday's

Dec 1 Charles Strom
 Dec 2 Meri Erickson
 Dec 3 Anthony Sippel
 Dec 4 Darlys Kampa
 Dec 6 Mary Swisher
 Dec 7 Morgan McNickle
 Dec 9 Ann Rix
 Brooklyn Gilbert
 Dec 15 Marjae Schinkel
 Melissa Gilbert
 Dec 16 Dan Schinkel
 Dec 17 Alan Townsend
 Dec 18 Dylan Hanson
 Jasper Pray
 Michaela Oleson
 Dec 19 Cal Hayenga
 Dec 21 Noella Graf
 Dec 22 John Padfield
 Dec 23 Casey Seelye
 Dec 26 Ben Peterson
 Misty Furman
 Dec 27 Jane Johnson

Dec 29 Andrea Davidson

Dec 30 Alex Graf
 Alec Oleson

Dec 31 Pastor Jan

Groton Anniversaries

Dec 11 David & Connie Nilsson
 Dec 14 Bob & Mary Ann Wehde
 Norman & Audrey
 Thurston
 Dec 20 Lon & Marva Gellhaus
 Dec 31 Ralph & Virginia
 Breitkreutz

Conde Birthday's

Dec 1 Joyce Haskell
 Dec 8 Tony Bruckner
 Millie Buising

Dec 10 Skylar Bonn

Dec 20 Rex Taylor

Dec 26 Darlene Meyer

Dec 31 Pastor Jan

Conde Anniversaries

Dec 4 M/M Greg Bonn
 Dec 27 M/M Richard Sanderson



Groton Prayer Chain

Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Jean Lowary	725-1232
Audrey Thurston	397-8493
Gert Ruden	397-8211
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Florann Norris	397-2638
Mary Swisher	397-8259
Gloria Pharis	397-2375
Mary Jane Schott	397-8588
Doris Zoellner	397-2417
Marjorie Townsend	298-5221
Darlys Kampa	395-6996
Marvel/Bob Johnson	397-2425
Mary Ann Whede	397-8330

*Currently 47 on email prayer chain.

Border crossers

A retired minister often relaxed by sitting on his deck and letting his mind roam while he fed peanuts to squirrels. He named one particular squirrel Squeak because it often squeaked as if to say, "Bring out the nuts!"



Although there were many squirrels that came for the picnic, Squeak was the only one courageous enough to reach out for a nut held between the man's fingers. The pastor realized that it took bravery for Squeak to cross the unseen border between the yard and the hand holding the nut. Squeak was willing to do what other squirrels would not – take a risk to gain a reward. Squeak was a brave border crosser.

The preacher thought, "Shouldn't Christians be daring border crossers as well?"

He thought about the Christians throughout history who had put their lives on the line for the cause of Christ: the apostles – most of whom were martyred; the countless missionaries who established churches, schools and hospitals in lands where the name of Christ was unknown. Church history is full of stories about Christians who crossed borders to tell the "old, old story of Jesus and his love."



Conde UMW Minutes - Nov 8th

Treasurer Jane Worlie led the lesson concerning the World Thank Offering by asking the members for things for which they were thankful this year. Each member was given a Tootsie Roll container and a coloring project to create their World Thank Offering for the year 2007. Undesignated Giving for Women and Children was discussed which includes scholarships, youth programs, after school programs, and aid for young mothers. All members contributed to the World Thank Offering collection.

President Donna Hearnen opened the meeting by leading in reciting the pledge. Devotions from the Conference booklet were read.

Joyce Haskell was remembered with a card.

We have been given a list of gifts for three children through the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield. This will include shoes this year.

Program for 2007 was presented, with UMW Day to be given in March. The program was included for Martha Circle. The book that was introduced will be continued for the year.

Bible Study will meet on Wednesday evening during November to discuss Dickens' Christmas Carol.

Special activities directors were named:

October, November, December: Donna Walter, Pat Siefken

January, February, March: Pat Siefken, Jane Worlie

April, May, June: Jane Worlie, Betty Taylor

July, August, September: Betty Taylor, Donna Hearnen

October, November, December: Donna Hearnen, Donna Walter

December meeting is December 6 at 11:00 AM at the church beginning with the lesson by Donna Walter, Let There Be Peace on Earth.

Hostesses are Jane Worlie, Pat Siefken, and Patty Knoll.

November Prayer Vigil is November 24 at 11:15 AM for Children in the World.

All joined in the Mizpah Benediction.

Lois Trapp was hostess for the afternoon.

Conde UMW December Meeting

**December 13
Wednesday
11:00 AM**

Meet at the Church for lunch, lesson, and business meeting. All invited to attend.

Christmas Meditation
Leader Donna Walter

We will watch the Video
"The Christmas Carol"
By Charles Dickens

Hostesses Are
Jane Worlie
Pat Siefken
Patty Knoll

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



Groton UMW Minutes - Nov 15



The Groton United Methodist Women met Wednesday, November 15, at 2:00 p.m. at the church. "Let There Be Peace on Earth" was the title of the program by the officers and Sharon Wheeting and Pastor Jan Price.

The PURPOSE was recited and Jolene Townsend presided at the business meeting

The Fall Bazaar was discussed. There was some concern as to whether it should be held separately from the Men's Dinner or remain the same. The program book for 2007 is near completion. The November 23rd Prayer Vigil will be the last one for this year.

The next meeting will be on

December 13th starting with a luncheon at 1:00 p.m. at the Latte Café. Members are asked to bring candy and cookies for the "goody" boxes to be filled following the luncheon.

The Dakotas Conference officers will host a retreat at the Ramada Inn February 2nd and 3rd. Members should register with Jolene by January 15th. The cost is \$15.

The proposed 2007 budget was adopted. The local mission projects include an allocation of \$275 each for Groton Transit and the Youth Center.

Caralee Heitmann served lunch following the meeting.

Groton UMW Christmas Luncheon

December 13th

1:00 PM

Wednesday

At the Latte' Café

RSVP to Clare by Dec 11th if you will be attending.

Following coffee and dessert, we will go to the church kitchen to assemble Christmas cans of cookies and candy.

Please bring 3 dozen cookies or candy individually wrapped.

This is a change from the Program Book.



Layette Kits

- 6 cloth diapers
- 2 t-shirts or one piece body suits
- 2 baby washcloths
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 2 diaper pins
- 1 sweater or sweatshirt (must have a front opening with buttons or snaps to close OR a tie at the top)
- 2 receiving blankets



Articles of clothing preferred 6-9 month in size. Knit and Crochet patterns available from UMW Members, Church Office, or on the web site.

Conde UMC Dinner Theatre



A doctor's office on Christmas Eve filled with an unusual collection of people. The pickpocket, Detroit Louie; his dumb but loyal side kick, Harry; Mrs. Aiken, the hypochondriac; the blind girl; the unsuspecting Old Man; an angel on probation; and each with a different agenda for Christmas. Plan to attend dinner and this delightful play, Christmas Comes to Detroit Louie by Bobby G. Wood and produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Co, Venice, FL. There are two performances planned, December 9 and 10, 2006. 6:00 pm. Advance ticket sales only can be obtained by calling Donna Hearnen at 382-5264. Tickets are \$12.50.

Worship Enhancement Team

Looking for 2 people from Groton and 2 people from Conde to help with visuals, special occasions, and holidays in the worship area. See Pastor Jan

What it means

"What means this glory round our feet,"
The Magi mused, "more bright than morn!"
And voices chanted clear and sweet,
"Today the Prince of Peace is born!"

"What means this star," the shepherds said,
"That brightens through the rocky glen?"
And angels answering overhead,
Sang "Peace on Earth, good will to men!"

—James Russell Lowell,
Christmas Carol



The same old song

Meeting a parishioner on the street, a pastor asked why he had not seen the fellow at worship very often. "Well," the man complained, "it seems like every time I go to church you sing the same old hymns."

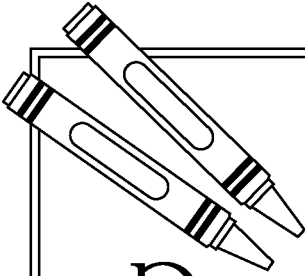
"Oh," replied the preacher. "What hymns are those?"

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

Make a happy Christmas

How can you make this the happiest Christmas of your life? Simply by trying to give yourself to others. Put something of yourself into everything you give. A gift, however small, speaks its own language. And when it tells of the love of the giver, it is truly blessed. -Norman Vincent Peale






Just for KIDS

Peace on Earth

Do you remember what King Herod did when he heard about the birth of Jesus? He was so troubled that he issued a decree ordering the death of all male children younger than 2 years old. Jesus was not born in a time of peace, but we can look forward to His return and believe what the heavenly host proclaimed.

Follow the maze through the verse.



START

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13-14, KJV **FINISH**

Groton Sunday School December Schedule

- Dec 3 - Christmas Prog Practice
Dec 6 - Christmas Program Practice for 3rd, 4th & 5th grades (time to be announced or call Mendy Jones 397-8614)
Dec 10 - Christmas Prog Practice
Dec 13 - Christmas Program Practice for 3rd, 4th & 5th grades (time to be announced or call Mendy Jones 397-8614)
Dec 17 - Christmas Prog Practice
Dec 17 - 5 pm is the Christmas Program
Dec 24 - No Sunday School
Dec 31 - No Sunday School



Groton Christmas Program
Dec 17th at 5 pm
Supper Following



Groton Youth Fellowship Officers

- President: Ali Pasteur
Vice-President: Tanner Johnson
Secretary: Amanda Swenson
Treasurer: Amber Wolken

Conde Sunday School
Christmas Program
December 17th
during 9 am Worship Service

Gary Heitmann & Tyke Nyberg have become fishers of men....



UMC Website

If you wish you could see the photos in color, you can! I put the newsletters online in pdf adobe acrobat reader format for you to enjoy or print. Just go to the website and check out the Newsletters.

www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc

Groton Stewardship Report November 2006

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,834

Needed Weekly to Meet
Church Needs
\$1,706

Average Weekly
Attendance
82

Total Building Fund
Offerings
\$40



Groton UMC received new members: Karla Davidson, Kristopher Oleson, Lori & John Seelye



Groton UMC Men's Dinner - UMW Fall Bazaar



Finding God?

Occasionally, a troubled person may say something like, "My life's a mess. I've tried to handle my problems alone, but without success. Maybe I need to find God."

The truth is that God has been seeking them. That's the message of the Bible. The story after Adam and Eve sinned is the tale of God's searching for them. God called, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9, NRSV). Their

guilt made them fearful of God, yet God sought them out — as a parent searching for his children.

When we spurn God, attempting to live life on our own terms, we alienate ourselves from the loving Creator. We suffer the consequences: guilt, shame, lack of inner peace, joylessness. Our lives lose real meaning and hope.

Christmas reminds us that God



makes every effort to keep in touch with us. The arrival of Jesus Christ was God's most dramatic act of reaching out to us.

Jesus said, "I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness" (John 12:46, NRSV). God was in Christ seeking us that we might find the fullness of life which is the great gift for each of us.



The Groton Men's Dinner



A Christmas prayer

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. May we not relish the glitz, and miss the glory of your incarnation. May we not focus so much on the parties and the presents, the decorations and the allure of the creations of humans, but instead think of Christ who bore the imprint of your very being and who carried with intensity and complete dedication your message of love and hope for us all.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.



Conde Ad Council - Oct Meeting

Items Tabled: tree removal and winterizing the doors

Mission emphasis for November will be layette kits.

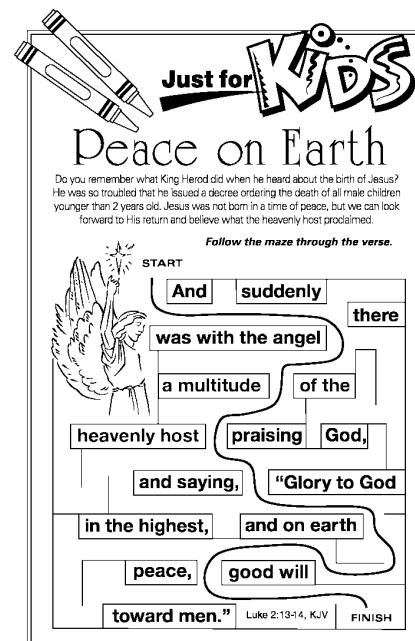
UMW will buy Christmas gifts for persons at the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield.

UMYF needs help providing meals for youth meetings; if interested contact Marsha Murphy (382-5288) or Betty Geist (395-6596).

Christmas Bible study will be on Charles Dickens' "The Christmas Carol." They will be meeting Wednesday nights at 8 pm at the church.

Our copier cannot be fixed. We are looking at purchasing a new one using memorial monies.

Committees were reminded to prepare reports for the Charge Conference on Nov 26th.



January Family Committee - Groton

Melissa & Neil Gilbert

Christine & Sherwin Nyberg

Marva & Lon Gellhaus

Ann & Gerald Rix

Mendy & James Jones

Marjorie & Roger Overacker

Laurel & Monte McNickle & Murdock

Kim & Craig Weber

Florran Norris

Audrey Miller and Jennifer & Martha

Jack Oliver

Dwight Strom

Diann & Brad Morehouse & Desiree

Marsha & Wayne Wienk

Honorary Members

• Clara Rix

• Margaret Blader

• Dick & Gert Ruden

• Eunice Sperry

• Ruth Thompson

• Richard Voss

Extra Responsibilities

• Jan 7 - white altar cloths and Communion Banners for this day only

• Jan 14 - Green Altar Cloths and monthly banners

• Shovel Snow from doorways before Church

• Take down Christmas decorations with all church helping

• Clean Sanctuary

• Potluck 2nd Sunday (optional)

January 2007

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			



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

**Groton Mission
Statement
"Enriching
Spiritual Lives
through Christ."**

December 2006						
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						

**Conde
Dinner
Theatre
Dec 9 & 10
6:00 pm
Reservations
Required**



Our Church Happenings

Dec 2 & 3 Aberdeen Community Living Christmas Tree Performances will be Sat at 7 pm and Sunday at 3 pm & 7 pm at the Aberdeen Civic Arena.

Dec 3 Advent Study 7 pm in the Chapel at Groton

Dec 5 Groton Blood Drive from Noon-6pm in Legion Clubroom Call for Appt: Gary at 397-8634, Chuck at 397-8538 or Kathy at 397-8102

Dec 9 & 10 Conde UMC Dinner Theatre, 6:00 pm, Reservations Required with the play, "Christmas Comes to Detroit Louie."

Dec 10 Advent Study 7 pm in the Chapel at Groton

Dec 13 Groton Ad Council 8 pm

Conde UMW at 11 am, lunch, lesson, and meeting

Groton UMW at 1 pm at the Latte, RSVP to Clare by Dec 11

Dec 17 Groton Sunday School Christmas Program at 5pm; supper to follow. Advent Study 7 pm in the Chapel at Groton

Conde Sunday School Christmas Program during 9 am worship

Dec 24 Sunday Worship at Regular Times

Christmas Eve Worship: Groton-5pm and Conde-7pm

Jan 7 Worship Time Changes for the Year

Groton Worship at 9 am & Conde Worship at 11 am

Groton Women's Bible Study meets each Tues at 10 AM studying the 12 disciples.

Groton Prayer Group meets each Tues at 11 AM.

Groton Ecumenical Men's Bible Group meets each Thurs at 7 AM