

United Methodist Messenger

Groton/Conde Parishes

February 2006



Here we are at one of the most personal times in our parish history. The taking of prayer partners and the potential to come from those who chose to engage in prayer.

John Maxwell, noted Christian author, has given us some beginning groundwork and suggestions for your Prayer Time.

First, **Preparation Time**. Find a comfortable spot, have your Bible, paper/pencil ready to use.

Second, **Waiting Time**. Isaiah 40: 31 "those who wait for the Lord, will gain new strength,"

Let God love you

God is waiting to tell you of God's love. Mentally allow yourself to "sit on Jesus' lap or cry on Jesus' shoulder" and let his unconditional love touch your heart.

Let God search you

When you let that happen, you will develop a relationship with God.

Let God show you

Give the day ahead to God. God can show you God's heart and how to minister to others in God's name just by placing names into your thoughts.

None of these three things come easy. They have to be worked on a little each day, but the rewards are wonderful.

Third: **Confess** our sins immediately. Remember, God has heard it all before and you cannot shock God, so be honest.

Fourth: **Spend time in the Bible for each day**. Read a little a day and it will prepare you for your day. Even one verse will make an impression on you and keep you going all day long. Pray that verse for yourself and then for others - it can be transforming.

Fifth: take some **Meditation Time**. Think about what God's Word means and the truth you found there. God will lead you once you begin to think about His Word and apply it to your life.

Sixth: **Intercession Time**. Praying for others. Here is where your pencil and paper come in handy. Write requests of names and situations to connect with God. Pray for God's will to be done.

Seven: **Petition Time**. Bring to God all your physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Pray "Thy will be done" Be honest. Talk about the little things that bother you.

Eight: **Application Time**. John 14: 23-24 "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching..." God will ask something of you in prayer time. Have your paper ready to take what God gives you to do. It might be one thing or two, usually not three.

Nine: **Faith Time**. Knowing that we don't have to know what God will do about a situation, but having FAITH that God will do something. Having the right motives helps us to know God will take care of God's business.

Ten: **Praise/ Thanksgiving Time**. Tell God you know who God is and what God has done. When we thank God, God inhabits us and blesses us.

Prayer is the "glue" that holds us together and keeps us accountable to God. These have been suggestions for your private prayer time. In using our new **prayer partners**, follow the small sheets you have been given or are available.

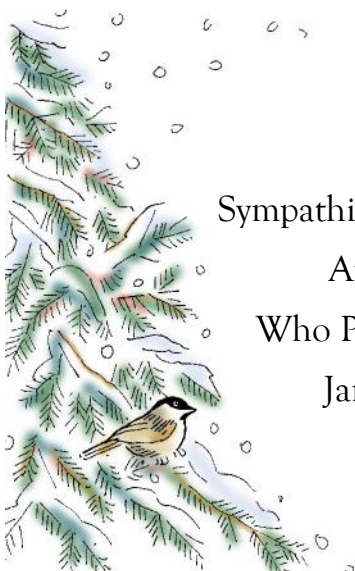
Call them once a week. Ask how they are doing in their lives. Ask how you can pray for



Blessings Shower and Baptism Blessings
Holden Sippel, Son of Crystal & Doug Sippel

Thank you to everyone who helped and attended the shower for Holden and for welcoming him into the church. A special thank you to Jean Lowary and Mary Swisher for making the beautiful banner and to Twila Ruden, Joyce Walter, and Marjorie Townsend for helping in the kitchen.

Doug, Crystal and Holden Sippel



Sympathies to the family of
 Art Padfield
 Who Passed Away On
 January 18th



Groton UMW Minutes - January

The Groton UMW met Wednesday, Jan 18th at 2:00 pm. The regular meeting was preceded by an Executive Board meeting.

UMW Sunday was planned for February 19. As the theme of the UMW program for the year is "Building Peace, Piece by Piece." Bring your quilts! There will also be a quilt display at the church that day. Other program details for the year were discussed. Mary Hayenga gave the program on "Peace Keeping in Antarctica." She and her husband, Cal, had visited the continent in December.

Reports were made on the installation service held during the morning worship service on January

8th (photo below) and the Christmas goody box deliveries. Members were reminded to save pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and soup labels and boxtop coupons to be delivered to the Elementary School.

The next meeting will be February 15 at 2:00 pm. Christie Swenson will have the program and Marjory Townsend and Doris Zoellner will serve lunch.

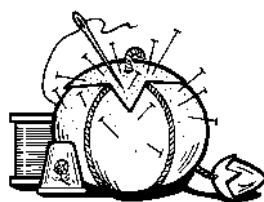
Mary Swisher and Mary Hayenga served lunch at the close of the afternoon.

UMW Officer Installation Service
held in church on January 8th



Groton Prayer Chain

Marlys Rodman	397-
4570	
Jean Lowary	
397-8228	
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	



UMW Sewing Kits

Collected in Jan & Feb

-) 3 yards of uncut cotton or cotton blend, solid color or print fabric
-) 1 package of needles
-) 1 spool of thread
-) 5-8 matching buttons
-) 1 pair of sewing scissors

Groton UMW
February 15th

2:00 pm Wednesday

Program by
Christi Swenson
Hostesses
Marj Townsend &
Doris Zoellner

World Day of Prayer
March 3rd
"Signs of the Times"
By the Women of South Africa

Conde UMW January Minutes

Conde United Methodist Women opened their January meeting with the Pledge Service "Peace Through Renaissance" led by Jane Worlie, assisted by Pat Siefken, Lois Trapp and Donna Hearnen. We commit ourselves to God's love throughout the world and in the United States. Peace has a connection with the fullness of Global work and any work done by volunteers. This is all through Undesignated Giving. We closed with singing "Hope of the world" and the Litany for Christian Unity.

President Donna Hearnen opened the business meeting following lunch served by Donna Walter and Betty Taylor. The Purpose Song was led by Pat Siefken, followed by devotions by Patty Knoll from the Conference Booklet.

Thank you notes were read

for Christmas gifts to the Center in Redfield and gifts of gloves and caps for school children in Conde. Ivy Nogle's Christmas letter was a part of the group. Cards were signed for Margaret Padfield, Darlene Meyer, and a gift in Memory was made for Pastor Jan's father.

Nine members and one guest answered roll call. Jane Worlie presented the treasurer's report and the budget for the year 2006. Our pledge will remain the same for the coming year. Activity chairs were chosen. Donna Hearnen will chair activities for January, February, and March, assisted by Betty Taylor.

Reading List books were presented with four new books to be bought by the unit for the members to read for the year. Measuring cups and spoons are welcome pur-

chases for the Solar Ovens project. Also remember to save pop cans and tables. Possible projects for the year were discussed for future use. Installation of officers may be combined with UMW Sunday Worship.

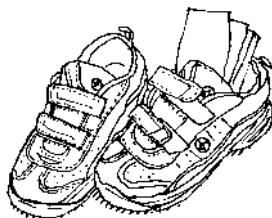
The next General meeting will be at 11:00 AM at the church on February 8. Patty Knoll will lead the Call to Prayer and Self Denial. Hostesses are Betty Jensen and Pat Siefken. We will also be hosting the World Day of Prayer on March 3, Friday, at 2:00 PM with others assisting Patty Knoll in presenting the program. We will be observing a Prayer Vigil for the entire Conference on Social Justice and Environmental Issues on March 5 from 11:15 - 12:00 noon.

All joined hands for the



Instant giving

After Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf area, a Catholic priest at Auburn University learned that people in Bayou La Batre had an urgent need for shoes. The following Sunday at a worship service, he told the students about the need and asked them - if they could - to bring shoes as soon as possible. He would deliver the shoes himself.



Guess what? At the end of the Mass approximately 200 students brought the shoes they were wearing to the altar and left them. They walked back to their dormitories barefooted.

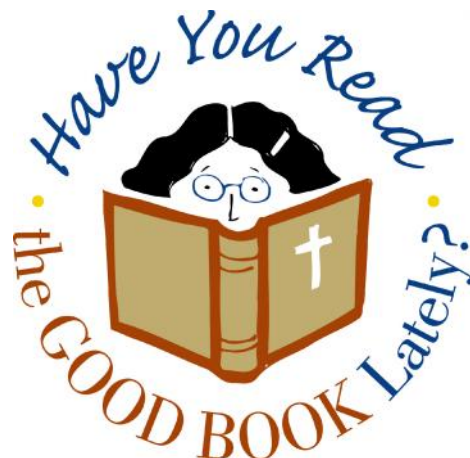
Sounds like something saints would do, doesn't it?

We've never done it this way!

A change - Meetings will be the 2nd Wednesday of each month!

Next Meeting is February 8th at 11 AM with lunch at noon.

Lesson will be on the Call to Prayer & Self Denial led by Patty Knoll.



Conde Ad Board January Minutes

Administrative Board met January 18th at 7:00 pm. Items discussed: Income is staying ahead of expenses so far. UMW reported that they gave money to the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield to help with Christmas gifts. UMW Sunday will be on February 19th. Friendship Tea will be held on April 26. Notice: Ronald McDonald will accept tabs from any aluminum can (for example soup cans)

Mission committee will promote sewing kits this month. Patty Knoll was put in charge of the making of the mission statement banner. Jane Worlie will secure a gift certificate for Mark Grimes who

lost his home due to a fire.

Music and Worship shared Lenten schedule: Ash Wednesday service time on March 1 will be announced. Maundy Thursday service will be on April 13th at 8:00 PM. There will be a 12 hour prayer vigil held on good Friday (April 14 from 8 am to 8 pm) On Easter (April 16) there will be a "Son Rise" service followed by a brunch before the 9 am service.

Stewardship letters have been sent.

The trustees will meet before the next meeting to come up with a plan and/or new contract

ideas for the land that the church owns.

Souper Bowl Sunday will be on February 5th with the youth in charge. The money collected will be given to the Banquet in Sioux Falls. People are asked to bring non-perishable canned goods that Sunday. The goods will be sent to the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield.

Jane Worlie was put in charge of the Sunday brunches for February 12 and March 12th

Next meeting will be February 22nd at 7:00 PM.

Alone?

A minister arrived early at the church where he was to be the guest preacher. He opened the door and walked down a long hall with his robe draped over one arm and his sermon notes in hand. He looked into one of the rooms and saw a four- or five-year-old boy sitting all alone. So he stopped.

"Hi," said the child. "My name is Tommy and I'm all alone in this big room."

"You feel all alone in that room?" asked the preacher.

"I don't just feel it. I know I'm all alone!" answered the child.

"Don't worry. I'm sure

that somebody will come along soon to be with you," replied the pastor.

With wistful eyes, little Tommy searched the preacher's face, then said, "How about you?"

Good question. And isn't that the question God asks each of us regarding God's work on Earth? "I need faithful friends to do my work," God says. "How about you?"

-Story told
by Dr. Jim
Moore



Ushers for February

Julie and Bud Bruckner

Cary and Shane

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

Souper Bowl Sunday - February 5th

Fifteen years ago, a Super Bowl Sunday paper inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring, a youth-led grassroots movement that is now an international event. Since going nationwide in 1993, these youth have raised more than \$28 million for people in need.

Participation in the Souper Bowl of caring helps tens of thousands of youth put God's love into action. Being part of something that reaches around the world makes every young person feel the power of God's love. Empower the Souper Heroes in your congregation as they help others through the Souper Bowl of Caring.



Souper Bowl Sunday



Sub Sandwiches will be made by the Groton UMYF for you to take home on Sunday Feb 5th for your Super Bowl Parties. Taking orders before church for pickup after church. \$5 Each Sandwich.



Join Forces & Battle Hunger with thousands of youth by dropping \$1 in a soup pot as you leave worship on Sunday, February 5. Every dollar dropped in a soup pot helps people in need feel the power of GOD'S LOVE

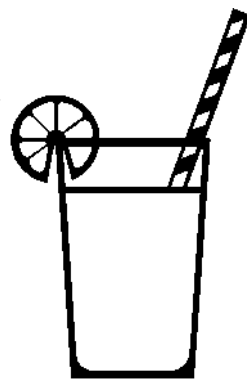
Conde UMYF will be taking a collection on Souper Bowl Sunday for the Banquet in Sioux Falls.

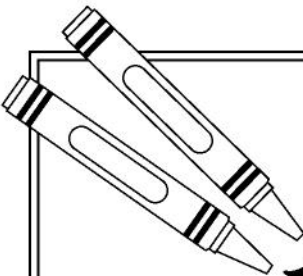
"Lord even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who don't even have a bowl of soup to eat."

Groton UMYF will be taking a collection on Souper Bowl Sunday .

Lemon aid

The staff of a Tempe, Arizona, church was in a meeting when someone knocked on the door. There stood a mother and her eleven-year-old son. The mother apologized for the interruption but said her son had something to say. He told the group that he had heard the pastor mention that many people were starving in Niger. In response, the boy set up a lemonade stand, which brought in \$17.00. He handed the pastor an envelope and asked her to send the money to the agency that was distributing food in that drought-stricken African country. This "lemon-aid" from one of their youngest church members touched the staff and illustrated that the bread we throw upon the waters - preaching, teaching, showing by example - can bring a return in Christian love and support from all age groups.





Just for KIDS

LOVE IS...

In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul writes about love. He tells us what love does and does not do. Let's find out about love!

Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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

LOVE IS 16 1 20 9 5 14 20

LOVE IS 11 9 14 4

LOVE 18 5 10 15 9 3 5 19 WITH THE TRUTH

LOVE 16 18 15 20 5 3 20 19

LOVE 20 18 21 19 20 19

LOVE 8 15 16 5 19

LOVE 16 5 18 19 5 22 5 18 5 19

... THESE THREE REMAIN: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS

12 15 22 5

ANSWER: PATIENT, KIND, REJOICES, PROTECTS, TRUSTS, HOPES, PERSEVERES, LOVE



Groton
UMYF

February
12th at noon.
All Welcome!

UMYF
Valentine
Dinner

Spaghetti Dinner
& Entertainment

Valentine

My heart overflows with love,
Fashioned in our courtship
Planted in our marriage
Blossoming in our children.

A love that has been
Pruned by life's realities
and
Strengthened by its triumphs.

A love that has grown because the
Responsibility and freedom
To give and to receive
Have been shared.

A love that continues to
seek its Source
In the sunshine of
God's Love -

For it is there that we find
Our reason for being and
Our reason for loving!
-Peggy Ferrell

Groton February Celebrations

Feb 5 Madison Thurston
 Feb 7 Gary Voss
 Feb 8 Larry Wheeting
 Feb 10 Brenda Madsen
 Dion Bahr
 Feb 12 Ashley Ptacek
 Feb 14 Diane Nisson
 Feb 19 Gaylene Voss
 Robert Sippel
 Terry Furman
 Feb 21 Ruth Thompson
 Feb 22 Anthony Schinkel
 Robin Wanous-
 Williamson
 Feb 25 Greg Heitmann

Feb 26 Mary Ann Wehde
 Feb 1 Richard & Gert Ruden
 Feb 5 Andrea & Brian Bahr
 Feb 10 Alan & Jolene Townsend
 Feb 18 Chuck & Mickey Padfield
 Feb 20 Ken & Leslie Dinger



Conde Celebrations

Feb 4 Donna Walter
 Feb 5 Richard Sanderson
 Feb 9 Vicky Stark
 Feb 12 Norb Hearnen
 Feb 19 Tyler Stark
 Feb 22 Horace Walter
 Betty Jensen
 Feb 10 Mr & Mrs Greg Stark
 Mr & Mrs Alan
 Townsend

Jesus a Criminal?

It's likely that if Jesus were still living among us today, He would be considered a criminal. Everyone would be mad at him...

- J The FDA for turning water into wine without a license;
- J The EPA for killing fig trees;
- J The American Medical Association for practicing medicine without a license;
- J The Department of Health for asking people to open graves, for raising the dead, and for feeding 5,000 people in unsanitary condi-

tions;

- J The NEA for teaching without a certificate;
- J OSHA for walking on water without a life jacket and other unsafe boating practices;
- J SPCA for driving hogs into the sea;
- J The National Board of Psychiatrists for giving advice on how to live a guilt-free life;
- J The NOW for not choosing a female apostle;
- J The Interfaith Movement for condemning all other religions.

Outreach Committee Meeting

February 6th at 7:00 PM

Jolene & Alan Townsend

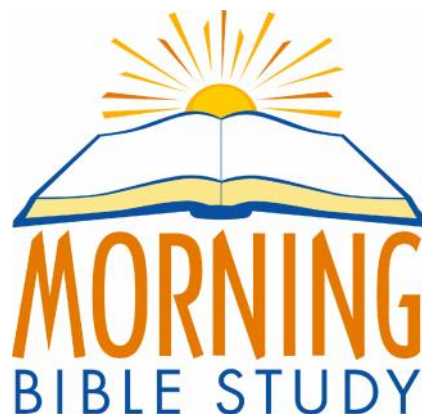
Joyce Walter
 Lars Hanson
 Connie Nilsson
 Crystal Sippel
 Joshua Atherton
 Merrie Atherton
 Carol Strom

Groton Tuesday Morning Bible Study

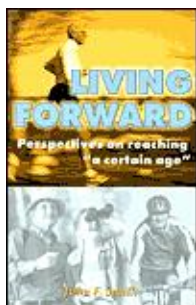
Please Join us any Tuesday Morning you are available to study and learn. February 14th we will be starting a new study on "Jesus' Final Week" This study is 8 lessons and we will finish with the Movie "The Passion of Christ." We meet at 10:00 am for an hour. No prior preparation is required although it may be more meaningful if the les-

son is read ahead of time. If you would like more information, call Kay Brandt at 397-8389.

Each week at 11:00 our study is followed by Prayer Group led by Pastor Jan. We spend 20 minutes lifting up others in prayer. Please Join us at any time!

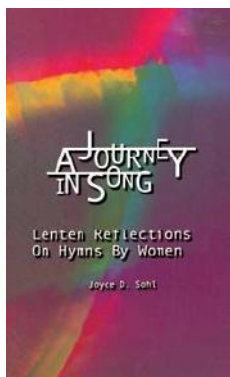


UMW Reading Program



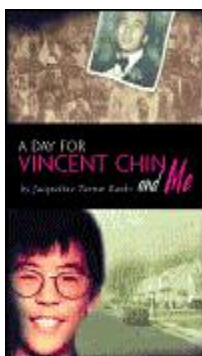
Living Forward: Perspectives on Reaching A Certain Age by John F. Smith (Nurturing for Community 2005 - Red) The young-old. Ready to retire - or per-

haps refusing to - but still vigorous and engaged. There are millions in the young-old generation. He invites readers to think once again about the questions of meaning and purpose that they faced when they were young. Who am I? Where am I going? What is my truth? What is my truth of God? What is my legacy? Smith encourages readers to take a personal approach to these questions, noting that each individual is led to personal spirituality based upon one's particular path of experience.



A Journey in Song: Lenten Reflections on Hymns by Women by Joyce B. Soul (Spiritual Growth 2001 - Green) A

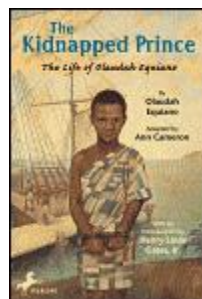
Lenten devotional booklet consisting of Scripture references, songs written by women, questions for reflection, and sentence prayers. Explore how God is revealed through Scripture, hymns, and songs of both contemporary and historical women of faith.



A Day for Vincent Chin and Me by J. T. Banks (Social Action 2005 Youth - Yellow) Sixth-graders Tommy, Angela, Faye, and the twins, Judge and

Jury Jenkins, have been friends forever. Now they're faced with new problems and need to find new solutions to them—even if it means breaking the law. How can they help prevent an inevitable accident on Tommy's street other than to try to stop cars from speeding past Tommy's young, deaf neighbor? Not only must the Posse mastermind a plan, but Tommy must confront his doubts about his mother's participation in a rally to fight racism. The last thing Tommy wants is to be singled out as a Japanese American, so why does his

mother insist on drawing attention to his family? But once he and his friends find their own cause, Tommy discovers common ground with his mother and comes to understand what it means to fight for something you believe in.



The Kidnapped Prince: The Life of Olaudah Equiano by Ann Cameron and Olaudah Equiano (Education in Mission 2005 - Blue)

Olaudah Equiano was born in the kingdom of Benin, the child of local royalty. He was kidnapped and sold into slavery, first within Africa and then in the New World. Despite the difficulties he faced, he learned many skills—including the crucial ability to read. The injustices, terror and cruelty that slaves suffered were detailed in his memoirs which were published after he bought his freedom. Ann Cameron has adapted his narrative by shortening the text and updating the language. The cadence of the times is retained, and the book remains a riveting portrait of the horrors of slavery.

A Christian Radio Station
with great praise music
for the whole family.
K-LOVE 94.9 FM.
Commercial FREE
music for everyone



Groton March Family Committee

Carolyn & Robert Snyder

Kelli & Lars Hanson & Cody

J Jane & Marc Johnson & Tanner

J Elaine & Fred Wolken & Amber

J Jean & Vern Walter

J Vicki & Alan Strom

J Clarence & Ida Hannon

J John Padfield

J Kevin Pharis

J Mary Jane Schott

J Anita & Gary Voss

J Lynette & Terry Furman, Derick & Sam

J Barb & Jack Schmidt & Taylor

J Perry & Laura Ptacek

J Josh & Merrie Atherton

J Diane Nissen

J Audrey & Clint Jacobson

J Loel Schott

Honorary Members

J Audrey Padfield

J Marvel & Robert Johnson

J Norm & Audrey Thurston

J Clare Brotherton

Extra Responsibilities

J Shovel Snow from doorways before Church

J Clean the Kitchen

J March 5th - White Altar cloths and Communion Banners

J March 12th - Purple Altar Cloths and Monthly Banners

J Order Easter Lilies

J Water the Easter Lilies

J Potluck on 2nd Sunday



March 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	

Which way?

There's an old story about a gravestone with this inscription on it:

As you are now, so once was I.

As I am now, you are sure to be.

So may I say, as now I lie,

Prepare yourself to follow me.

Someone came along and wrote these words in chalk beneath the inscription:

To follow you I'm not content

Until I know the way you went.

Two ears, one mouth.
Is there a lesson here?

Blueberry Snack Bars

From Pat Dahlquist

1 Box Yellow Cake Mix

1/2 Cup melted Butter or Margarine

3 eggs

1 8 ounce package of cream cheese

2 1/2 cups powdered sugar

1 21oz can Blueberry Fruit Filling

3/4 cup flaked coconut

3/4 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In large bowl combine cake mix, butter or margarine and 1 egg; blend well. Pat mixture into bottom of well-greased 15X10 inch jelly roll pan.

In a mixing bowl beat cream cheese until fluffy, beat in 2 eggs and powdered sugar. Pour over cake mixture in pan. Layer Blueberry fruit filling, coconut, and nuts. Bake 45 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool and cut into bars.

Groton Ad Council Minutes - January

Groton Admin. Council – Eleven members were present on Jan. 11 to discuss the following agenda items:

Finance Report:

- J 2005 apportionments were paid in full
- J Money from the Builder's Club was received and added to the Roof Fund.

Nurture Committee:

- J First meeting planned for Jan. 25

UMW:

- J As of Jan. 1 our district is now officially known as the Glacial Lakes District.
- J Installation of officers was held during church on Jan. 8.
- J UMW Sunday will be in Feb. in conjunction with Conde UMW Sunday.

UMYE:

- J The Admin. Council clarified that either the youth President or a representative should attend the council meetings.
- J We have 22 active youth members.

- J Several up-coming activities are planned including: Souper Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5; Valentines Dinner on Feb. 12; and a Jr. High Rally in March.

Trustees:

- J Decided to accept a bid from Malchow's for Sunday school room carpet.
- J Painting of Sunday school rooms will be done on Jan. 21 by volunteers
- J Sunday school room ceilings are redone with dropped ceilings.

Endowment:

- J Brochures were revised and handed out before Christmas, resulting in some additional endowment donations.

Pastor/Parish:

- J Have met approximately six times since Pastor Jan arrived and will meet again in Feb. Meetings will then change to quarterly.

Enriching Spiritual Lives through Christ.



Groton Stewardship Report January 2006

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,208

Needed Weekly to Meet
Church Needs
\$1,706

Average Weekly
Attendance
72

Total Building Fund
Offerings
\$94





Our Church Happenings



February 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				

Feb 5 Souper Bowl Sunday - UMYF Collecting

Feb 6 Groton Outreach Committee Mtg 7:00 PM

Feb 8 Conde UMW 11:00 AM

Feb 8 Groton Ad Council 8:00 PM

Feb 12 Groton UMYF Valentine Dinner for all at Noon

Feb 15 Groton UMW 2:00 PM

Groton UMYF Movie Nite - 6:30 bring munchies

Feb 19 UMW Sunday

Feb 22 Conde Ad Council 7:00 PM

Mar 1 Ash Wednesday

Mar 3 World Day of Prayer

