

# United Methodist Messenger



## Reflection

What is it about the satisfaction following the Big Holiday of Christ-mass? Some of us feel that feeling of satisfaction in the release of many tasks, busyness with other people, to being able to just be. In stillness, in peace and to reflect on the many wonderful ways we might have responded to the needs of those around us, or perhaps we did. God has a brilliant way of using us to do the right thing for those around us, if we allow God to work in us. We have to give God's plan first choice to work.

A New Year to begin again in 2006. The old year wore us all down and had multiple tragedies and joys ripping at our hearts.

As we reflect we know that we have many choices each day we wake. Choices over the next year in which we can choose to love and not use hatred. We can choose joy and not allow the world to pull us down. Rather the things that seem like problems might be opportunities to find God's way among us. We can choose peace as forgiven people of God, we too can forgive and offer that calming heart of prevail. We can choose patience (my most diffi-

cult!) for the world's ways make life uncomfortable and inconvenient if we react to them that way. I choose to face them with positive joy and encouragement for others. Another choice is kindness and we cannot spread that too thin along with goodness (Keeping our values high for ourselves). A hard one to stay on nowadays is faithfulness, in praise, prayer and to myself. One of the human characteristics we have is just that. . . being human! Using self-control allows us to use our faith, only allowing God's ways to lead us, to learn what Christ wants from my life and the mission I am on as a Christian.

I search to find these ways to lead my days. I will not succeed each day and you will catch me in being human more than once in the next year. Don't forget we are all in the boat called life together. Rocking is good for small people, but can prove difficult for bigger folks. I wish you peace in 2006 as we journey together.

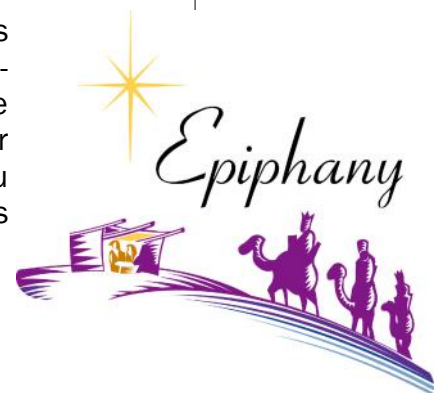
Pastor Jan

January 2006

## The Hand of God

God's gentle  
Hand is  
guiding,  
But it doesn't  
push or shove,  
Instead it  
clasps our hu-  
man hands  
And leads with  
Grace and  
Love.

We find within  
this Hand of  
God  
A heavenly  
Strength  
indeed,  
And as we  
follow, God  
provides  
For what we  
truly need.  
—Peggy Ferrell



## Thank You

To my Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful stained glass sun catcher and your warm welcome into this congregation.

Blessings to all of you,



## Baptism Blessings

Cassandra Olson, daughter of David Tewksbury and Granddaughter of Bill & Rose Tewksbury.

## Open House Invitation

Grant & Eileen Piehl's 40th Wedding Anniversary. You are all invited to the Open House at the United Methodist Church, 221 2nd Street East, Napoleon, ND. On Sunday, January 29th from 1:00 to 4:00. Light refreshments will be provided. In 1966, Grant & Eileen were married at the Edgewood United Methodist Church in Fargo, ND. Please Contact Latha Pederson at (763)420-9632 if you have any questions.

Greetings can be mailed to:  
PO Box M, Napoleon, ND 58561.



## Blessings Shower

In Honor of Holden Sippel, son of Doug and Crystal Sippel during the coffee hour on Jan 15th. Cake will be served by Twila Ruden, Joyce Walter, and Marjorie Townsend

## 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	

## Conde UMW Note

General Meeting of Conde UMW is January 11th, 11:00 AM at the church. Jane Worlie is presenting the lesson for the Pledge Service, "Renaissance Through Peace".

Lunch will be served by Donna Walter and Betty Taylor. A business meeting led by Donna Hearnen will follow.

PLEASE NOTE we are

changing the date of our General Meeting to the second Wednesday of the month for this year. You, who are members, will be receiving your books soon with the date change. If any one would like a schedule of meetings for the year, please contact Pat Siefken. We shall see you on JANUARY 11 AT 11:00AM.

## Conde Celebrations - January

Jan 3 - Bruce Herman  
Jan 8 - Darrel Haskell  
Jan 10- Donna Hearnen  
Jan 11- Norman Smith  
Jan 18- Lon Siefken  
Jan 26- Paula Siefken  
Jan 27- Wava Thomas

Jan 31- Kevin Hanlon

### ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 5 - M/M Tony Bruckner  
Jan 27-M/M Darrel Haskell  
Jan30- M/M Mike Knoll



## Groton Celebrations - January

2 Holly Walter  
3 Bob Walter  
6 Zachary Townsend  
9 JoAnn Krueger  
Richard Oliver  
10 Anita Voss  
Neil Gilbert  
11 Norman Thurston  
Randy Padfield  
13 Lance Hawkins  
Monte McNickle  
15 Alissa Gellhaus  
Margaret Blader  
16 Hunter Bahr

Marjorie Overacher  
18 Aaron Nyberg  
20 David Nilsson  
21 Pam Bahr  
23 Mendy Jones  
24 Curtis Furman  
25 Russell Townsend  
26 Doris Zoellner  
27 Kristie Hawkins  
28 Audrey Miller  
Ruby Luce  
10 Bob & Marvel Johnson  
14 Jay & Linda Johnson

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

## Revered and read

In many churches, an ornate Bible lies open on the worship table near the entrance to the sanctuary. Someone once commented that this is an appropriate symbol for some Christians — a Bible that is revered but never read. Let us prove that observer wrong.

## **Groton UMW Minutes - December Meeting**

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women met at the church for a 12:30 p.m. luncheon on December 21. Members came laden with Christmas cookies and candy for the goody boxes that were filled later. At the luncheon each member received a towel with the story of the "The Towel". The towel has been a significant symbol of Christian love reminding us that the Savior worked goodness with His so many years ago.

Hostesses for the luncheon were the officers, Jolene Townsend, Gloria Pharis, Twila Ruden and Clare

Brotherton. After the luncheon twenty-five goody boxes were packed for special people and were delivered following the meeting. The boxes were made from coffee cans, sprayed and tied with a cheery ribbon. They were topped with a candy cane along with the story of the candy cane.

The next meeting will be on January 18 at 2:00 p.m. with an executive meeting at 1:00 p.m. Mary Hayenga and Mary Swisher will be hostesses. Installation of the 2006 officers is planned for Sunday, January 8, during the morning worship

## **Conde UMW Minutes - December Meeting**

Betty Taylor gave the lesson, "Sharing Dreams of God's New Beginnings." Using the verses of the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and scripture to share thoughts about those who need our prayers and help to be able to survive in this world of violence, war and crimes.

A short business meeting was held before lunch. Roll call was answered by six members and two visitors. The business consisted of setting Monday, December 12th at one o'clock to plan the program for next year. UMW Day was discussed but plans will have to wait until we meet with the Pastor.

Christmas cards were singed by everyone and sent to the following persons: Darlene Meyer, Judy Dirk-

sen, Bill Morton, Irene Pfaff, Charles Thomas, Chuck Trapp, Donna Hannon, Ivy Nogle, Richard and Dorothy Sanderson, Joan and Myron Fahrenwald and our UMW Sister Unit in Drayton, ND.

After enjoying a delicious noon luncheon prepared by hostesses Lois Trapp, Betty Taylor, and Donna Hearnen everyone enjoyed a movie in the lounge. The movie, A Christmas Romance, was very good and a beautiful end to an enjoyable afternoon.

Our next meeting will be January 11, 2006 at 11 o'clock when Jane Worlie will give the Pledge Service. Hostesses for the noon luncheon are Donna Walter and Betty Taylor.

## **Groton UMW Meeting January 18th 2:00 pm**

Leader  
Mary Hayenga

Hostesses  
Mary Hayenga  
And  
Mary Swisher

Executive Meeting  
at 1:00 pm



## **Conde UMW Meeting**

**January 11th  
11:00 am**

**Pledge Service  
By Jane Worlie**

Hostesses  
Donna Walter  
And  
Betty Taylor

Martha Circle meets January 4th at 8:00 PM at the church. Pat Siefken will lead the lesson, Donna Hearnen is hostess. Everyone is welcome to attend.





Groton's  
Christmas Program







## Just for KIDS

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we begin a new calendar year, let us always remember who we should follow in this world.

**Directions:**

1. Start at the circled letter "I." Follow the direction of the arrow and circle every other letter until you have gone around the world one time.
2. Start at the circled letter "I" again, and write down the circled letters on the blank lines below.
3. Beginning at the \*W, write the letters or numbers that are not circled until you have gone around the world again. Read the message.



Answers: "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE." JOHN 8:12, NIV

## Groton UMYF

### Jars

### Wanted!



Clear pint and quart jars for a fund-raiser in January. Leave jars in container under the sign-up board in the Fellowship Hall.



## Souper Bowl Sunday



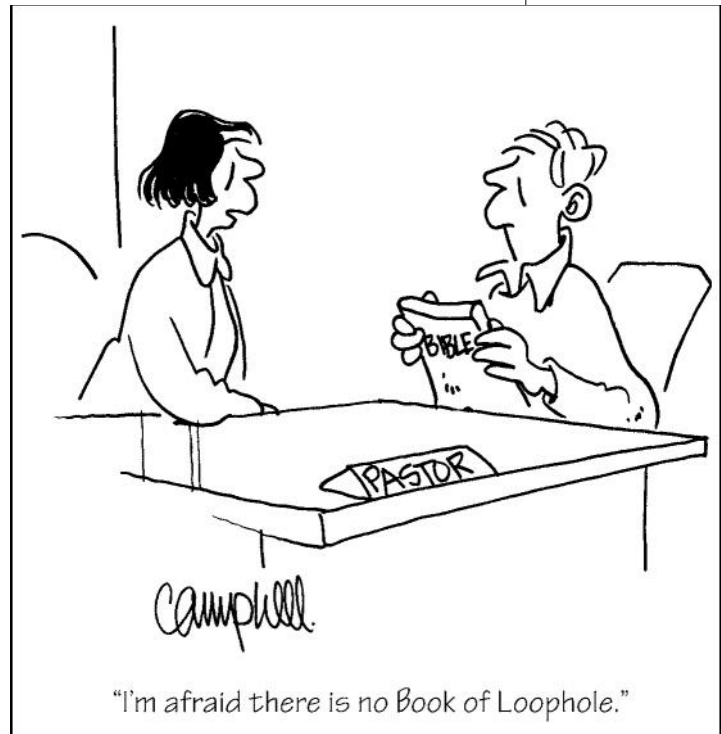
Thank You to the Groton UMYF Group for serving supper after the Christmas Program.



## Three Kings Day

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, the arrival of the three kings or wise men. The three kings were the Gentiles who “came from afar” to offer gifts to the Christ child. The meaning of the event is that Jesus came as Lord not only for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. Christ is the Savior of the world — the whole world.

Three Kings Day — or Dia de los Reyes in Spanish — is celebrated in many places around the world on January 6. Last year in Phoenix alone, more than 25,000 Latinos and others celebrated Three Kings Day. During the festivities, there are parades with camels bearing the “kings,” toys are given to children, food is shared and folk dancers perform. Many women bake bread with a miniature plastic Jesus inside each loaf. The person who ends up with the figurine is obliged to host a party for others on



**Thank you** to all the Church Angels we are blessed to have doing many things. This Christmas season we had angels decorating, cleaning sidewalks (especially the ice), putting up the outside Nativity, and many other things that happen in and around our church. Thank you all!



## Angels



**Thank you to  
Joyce Walter for  
quilting us a  
beautiful  
Christmas Scene  
for the  
Sanctuary.**

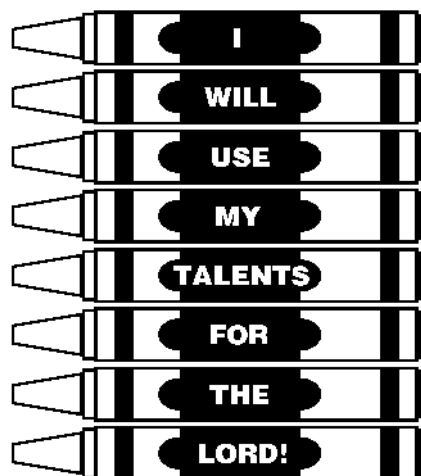
## All in the same boat

The portion of the church building where the congregation sits is called the nave or boat. It reflects the understanding that the church is the ark of salvation, offering life in Jesus Christ to all who will receive it. Often in stained-glass windows one can find a picture of a boat, sometimes with a cross as the mast to symbolize the church. As you sit in worship on Sunday look around you. We're all in the same boat!



## Gifts

God waved a large, majestic hand  
And gave us sky and trees and land.  
God gave us birds to chirp each morn  
And stout, young rows of bright green corn.  
God gave us forests in whose shadows deep  
Deer keep watch as their children sleep.  
God gave us clouds of fluffy white  
To shield us from the sun's bright light.  
God gave us homes to keep us warm,  
To keep us secure and safe from harm.  
In short, God gave us all he could;  
God gave us all things great and good.  
—Unknown



## It's a gift

Those talents which God has bestowed upon us are not our own goods but the free gifts of God; and any persons who become proud of them show their ungratefulness.

—John Calvin

## Potato Soup

Served at the Tuesday Morning Bible Study for our Christmas Lunch. It was doubled.

- 3 cups potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups frozen vegetables, California Blend
- 1 pound American cheese, Velveeta
- 3 tablespoons margarine
- salt
- pepper

Place potatoes in large saucepan with 4 cups water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 10 to 15 minutes or until tender; drain. Add milk and vegetables to drained potatoes; bring to a gentle boil over medium heat; reduce heat. Add cheese, butter and season to taste. Heat over low heat, stirring frequently, until cheese is melted and vegetables are tender-crisp. Serve





## Groton Ad Council - December Minutes

**Groton Admin. Council** – Nine members were present on Dec. 14 to discuss the following agenda items:

**UMYF:** The board agreed to a request by the youth to sponsor and organize the church potluck dinner as a fund-raiser from time to time. The group is talking about attending a youth Christian Rally called Acquire the Fire and perhaps a ski trip to Alexandra.

**Trustees:** Grote Roofing was called in to investigate leaks after the ice storm. They found an ice dam and guaranteed that they fixed it. Bills for the fellowship hall ceiling tiles have been received. An estimate for carpet in the

Sunday School rooms has been received. Additional bids will be sought.

**Fianance:** Plans are to pay the balance of apportionments by the end of the year.

**Pastor/Parish:** The committee met in Conde in early Dec. and did an evaluation of our pastor, which was then reviewed with Pastor Jan.

**Adminsitrative Report:** Pastor Jan shared some information regarding “Katrina Church Recovery” needs and statistics that included the number of churches that need replacing in the area.



**The Roof Project Continues! The ceiling in the fellowship hall has been lowered with new lighting.**

### What it means to be a Christian

Christians are slow to lose patience, but quick to be gracious.  
Christians look for ways to be constructive, even when provoked.  
Christians restrain from trying to impress others with their own importance.  
Christians practice good manners.  
Christians are not “touchy,” even when insulted.  
Christians think the best, not the worst, of others.  
Christians do not gloat over the wickedness of other people.  
Christians are pleased to reach out a hand to someone in need.  
Above all else, Christians exhibit the love of Christ in their hearts and in their lives.

### Groton Stewardship Report December 2005

**Average Wkly Giving**  
**\$1,549**

**Needed Weekly to Meet  
Church Needs**  
**\$1,874**

**Average Weekly  
Attendance**  
**66**

**Total Building Fund  
Offerings**  
**\$693**

**Total Roof Fund  
Offerings for Month**  
**\$120**

**Enriching  
Spiritual Lives  
through  
Christ.**

### The matter of Conscience

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, “What happens when someone’s conscience bothers them?”

A boy spoke up and said, “It makes you tell your mother what you did before your sister tells on you.”



## The old family Bible

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he held in his hand was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found!"

the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" asked his mother.

The young boy answered in a voice hushed with awe, "I think it's Adam's underwear."



**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

## Human Relations Sunday - January 22nd

"Twenty-five years ago this was a really depressed area with a lot of gang violence. People were moving out of the community," recalls Deborah Bell, director of community development for Black Community Developers Inc. at Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church, Little Rock, Ark. "My father—the Rev. William Robinson Jr.—has a passion for people who are underserved. When he was appointed to this church in 1981, the first thing he did was to meet with people in the community to find out where the needs were."

"He had a vision," adds Paw Paw's Day Care director Karen Robinson—also Rev. Robinson's daughter, "He not only wanted a day care; he wanted everything else! And a lot of his vision came true."

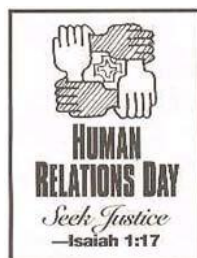
Over the years, the start-up budget of \$5,000 grew to \$1.5 million. And the idea that sparked United Methodism's Community Developers Program continues to evolve. Today 12 ministries provide day care, after-school activities, gang intervention, jobs training, substance-abuse treatment, affordable/supportive housing and more.

Rev. Robinson is quick to note, "This is not my ministry. This is our ministry. And everyone has a part in it. Through the Human Relations Day offering, The United Methodist Church has been very helpful to us, and we reciprocate by doing everything we can to share out blessings."

The congregation pays its World Service and conference benevolences 100 percent.

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made," the Psalmist wrote. "Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." Through "rebuilding lives and restoring communities," Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church tells its neighbors: You are God's creation, and you have great potential.

Your offering on Human Relations Day, the Sunday before the birthday observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. Please give



Carson Hicks and Julius Wilkins play dress-up at Paw Paw's Day Care, a ministry of Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church, Little Rock, Ark. Through the center and other outreach programs, the congregation rebuilds lives and restores its community.

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become reality. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.  
—Martin Luther King Jr.



# Next Page...

Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year



**New Year - 2006  
Service Times Change!**

**Conde Church Service  
will be at 9 am  
Groton Church Service  
will be at 11 am**

## **Our Church Happenings**

Jan 4 Conde Martha Circle, 8:00 pm

Jan 8 Groton UMW Installation of Officers during Church Service

Potluck and All-Church De-Decorating

Jan 11 Conde UMW Meeting 11:00 am

Groton Ad Council 8:00 pm

Jan 14 Groton Family Committee Cleans Sanctuary 1:00 pm

Jan 15 Groton Blessings Shower Holden Sippel

Jan 18 Groton UMW Meeting 2:00 pm; 1:00 Exec Mtg

Jan 25 Groton Worship & Music Meeting 7:00 pm

Groton Choir Meeting 8:00 pm

Jan 29 Grant & Eileen Piehl 40th Anniversary Open House in ND

### **January 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				