

GROTON/CONDE UMC PARISHES

# UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

open hearts  
open minds  
open doors

June 2006



## GETTING MARRIED?

In our age of self-gratification, microwaves, instant and drive-up and drive-thru everything, our marriages are taking a beating from our culture. Or are they? The levels of divorce is almost equal that of secular marriages and "Christian" marriage.

We have the opportunity to bring more clarity and understanding into our roles as married partners. We have available to us the use of newer formats to not only help couples build a marriage based on open honesty and mutual help for each others understanding.

This pastor is comfortable helping couples to build a relationship of Christian community thru problem solving, attitudes, and expectations. This takes over a half year to be able to meet these needs.

Over a period of sessions; a couple can develop a covenant commitment, find visions, goals, meld family and friends, personal habits, cope with the negative and positive of our world. The ability to deal with sexuality, nurture, children, parenting, career, health, finances and the power of listening and all issues that are confronted. Working through anger, allowing feedback, offering forgiveness, all work into a lifestyle of a marriage bond. We find the gifts of faith, hope and love all based on this material a joy to deal with. When dealt with prior to a marriage, there should be

no surprises.

Who is to say that these new directions cannot be used by those already married, to bring a new playing field to their roles within their marriage?

This pastor hears the same comments. Where was this material when I wanted to be married? It would have helped us so much. When we hear those things, we want to help others get a great start and firm ground to begin with.

One really interesting portion is the engagement covenant, done in church, with your church family to explore areas with your pastor and a mentoring couple. They will be able to come along side of the couple and reduce pressures on all sides to meet a new pairing of love, understanding and mutual respect. We offer this to all who are considering the act of Christian marriage in the coming year or two to evaluate not the strength of your love, but the direction that love takes you in your commitment to each other.

Before you move in together to "try it" and see if it works, consider this approach that will last a life-time, which is what God intended.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is in the planning stages with new formats to be offered later on in the summer. We have many people who are working on the organizational end of music, fun-times of joy and getting together in the evening hours for those who work to be able to help. We just want you to know we are in the process of being able to gather all our resources and have a rotation of kids thru areas of fun for the summer. Stay tuned for more information, flyers and bulletin announcements as the time gets closer.

If you wanted to offer to help, please contact Gloria Pharis at 397-2375, or Pastor Jan.

Blessing to all who are out of school, we pray for safety, good judgment, and fun over the summer. It is such a beautiful time of year and we are grateful to be in God's creation together.

In Christ's Great Love,  
Pastor Jan

## GROTON SENIORS HONORED



Lucius Geffre, Dexten Frericks, Lee Swenson, Tye Telkamp

Angela Brandt, Sam Zoellner

Jesse Morehouse (not pictured)

### 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-

Groton UMW  
Meeting  
June 21 at 7:30 PM  
Wednesday

"Chair Exercise"  
by Bunny Blotske

Hostesses: Linda  
Thurston & Kim Weber

6:30 Meeting for  
Officers & Program Re-  
source Chairmen  
AND  
Nomination Committee

"HOLY,  
*Holy*  
HOLY  
is the  
LORD  
OF HOSTS;  
*the whole*  
EARTH  
IS FULL OF HIS  
GLORY."  
ISAIAH 6:3, NRSV



## CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

## JUNE

### Conde Birthdays

Jun 2 Russell Buising  
Jun 4 Paxton Bonn  
Lois Trapp  
Pat Siefken  
Jun 6 Keith Hanlon  
Jun 9 Nathan Murphy  
Jun 13 Guy Hanlon  
Donna Hannon  
Jun 15 Janice Herman  
Jun 20 Cary Bruckner  
Jun 22 Julie Bruckner  
Jun 26 Grant Hanson  
Jun 27 Lance Haskell

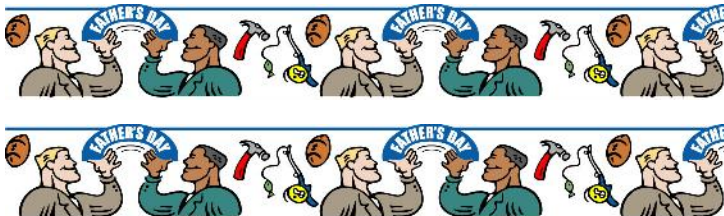
### Conde Anniversaries

Jun 5 Cindy and Norman Smith  
Jun 13 Katy and Dwight Lyren  
Jun 30 Betty and Marion Jensen

### Groton Birthday's

Jun 1 Anita Lowary  
Chad Barton  
Jay Swisher  
Jun 2 Lindsey Gese  
Jun 3 Barry Norris  
Jun 4 Jay Johnson  
Jun 5 Jennifer Miller  
Jun 6 Bailee Zoellner  
Jun 8 Lacy Voss  
Jun 9 Halle Williamson  
Jun 13 Roger Rix  
Jun 14 Danielle Schinkel  
Roger Overacker  
Jun 16 Gavin Voss  
Harry Pharis, Jr.  
Jun 18 Nick Strom  
Jun 19 Pat Dahlquist  
Jun 20 Robert Snyder

Jun 22 Angela Brandt  
Wade Nyberg  
Jun 23 Kaycie Hawkins  
Shaylee Peterson  
Twila Ruden  
Jun 24 Jeremy Weber  
Jun 27 Elaine Wolken  
Skyler Geffre  
Jun 29 Derick Furman  
Jun 30 Brad Furman  
**Groton Anniversaries**  
Jun 4 Gary & Caralee Heitmann  
Jun 12 Brad & Kay Ruden  
Jun 14 Doug & Pam Bahr  
Jun 15 Gene & Ruby Luce  
Jun 16 Ben & Kay Brandt  
Jun 21 Ben & Kristi Peterson  
Gary & Linda  
Thurston  
Jun 24 Charles & Betty Strom



## A son's tribute to his father

The San Francisco Theological Seminary received a moving letter from a man who enclosed a check from his deceased father's small amount of assets. In his letter, Norman Anderson said that his clergyman father, Lincoln Anderson, had served only small churches during his 52 years as a pastor. Yet Lincoln and his wife had put three children through college, and gave generously to every church he served, as well as to his beloved seminary when possible.

Lincoln died, said the son, without much more than his wits and a small house. Still, shortly before dying, Lincoln asked Norman to send his final gift to the school where he had been trained for the ministry.

The son ended his letter with these words: "Dad was proud to be a SFTS graduate and proud of the school's work. Therefore it is my privilege to honor his request with the enclosed check as his final gift to the seminary. This may read oddly, but father or not, Lincoln Anderson is the finest man I've ever known."

While this good father had little material wealth to leave behind, he left his son a valuable lesson in generosity of spirit — a lesson worth emu-





## CONDE UMW MINUTES MAY 17TH

Earth Day was the subject of the lesson presented by Pat Siefken. The group read the hymn "I Am Your Mother." and Psalms 24:1.

Creation is a gift of God and Environmental Ethics should be practiced. Our sins in that area are Pollution; Ozone; Human Population' Productivity, and Radical Reduction of Species. As Global Warming is a threat, we should take special care of our vehicles and homes. Many hints were given on recycling and planting of trees.

Pat Siefken, vice president, called the meeting to order in the absence of the president.

Roll call showed six members present with one guest.

Treasurer's report was accepted following roll call and reading of minutes. There were 95 present at the Friendship Night, and Early Bird camper fees were paid.

Cards were sent to Norbert Hearnen and Arlene Peterson.

Workers were still needed for serving the Banquet. It was suggested we take Senior Citizens van and each person will pay their fare.

Fun Day was set for June 15<sup>th</sup> in Watertown, with future plans to be made.

The church in Alabama will receive \$50.00 in mission money that has been received to date. The closing date for year end reports is August 13<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was closed by reciting the Purpose of the United Methodist Women and the Mizpah Benediction.

Joan Fahrenwald was hostess for the day.

Weekday School of Christian Mission meets July 10-13 at Dakota Wesleyan University. The Weekend School is July 14 – 16. All are encouraged to attend.

Next meeting is August 9, 2:00 PM at the church. Betty

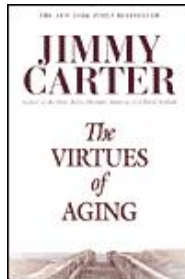


### Inspirational vision

Charley Boswell, a former University of Alabama football star with hopes of a professional baseball career, lost his eyesight in World War II. But that did not stop him. He went on to become the National Blind Golf Champion 17 times. He was quoted as saying, "I never count what I've lost. I only count what I have left."

—The SourceBook of Wit and Wisdom

## UMW READING PROGRAM



**The Virtues of Aging (2003) Nurturing for Community** A heartfelt if somewhat unsurprising view of old age by the former President. Carter (Living Faith) succinctly evaluates the evolution and current status of federal policies concerning the elderly

(including a balanced appraisal of the difficulties facing the Social Security system). He also meditates, while drawing heavily on autobiographical anecdotes, on the possibilities for exploration and intellectual and spiritual growth in old age. There are few lightning bolts to dazzle in his prescriptions (cultivate family ties; pursue the restorative pleasures of hobbies and socially minded activities). Yet the warmth and frankness of Carter's remarks prove disarming. Given its brevity, the work is more of a call to senior citizens to reconsider how best to live life than it is a guide to any of the details involved.



### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY - JUNE 11TH

Seeing the face of Christ in others is not easy, but it is a commitment that the Rev. Deanna "Dee" Stickley-Miner embraces and encourages. As co-founder of Faith Communities Uniting for Peace, the United Methodist clergywoman works with Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs "to live from a vision of peace rooted in faith."

"We witness to peace not from a primary agenda of politics," she says, "but from a desire to be faithful to God's dream for creation. All faiths proclaim a vision of peace where all—not just some—are beloved of God."

Working together, Stickley-Miner asserts, members of Faith Communities Uniting for Peace have

"developed mutual respect and dignity, moving beyond stereotypes and prejudices."

After the March 2004 Interfaith Prayers for Peace worship service and rally, "someone called me," Stickley-Miner recalls. "She did not know there were people advocating for peace from a place of faith. She said the vent helped to provide a place for her voice and convictions." The caller plans to participate in future peace activities.

Your offering on Peace with Justice Sunday helps the children of God everywhere to live lovingly and peacefully. Half of the offering supports peace with justice ministries globally through the General Board of Church and

Society, and half assists annual conference-related work such as Faith Communities Uniting for Peace in West Ohio.

"Live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you," wrote the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth. Help to bring peace and justice to a hurting world. Please give generously on Peace with Justice Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost. Your gift makes a world of difference!



### Fussy people

Did you ever wonder if among the thousands of people fed by Jesus with just a few fish and five loaves of bread, there were some who complained about finding bones in the fish and lumps in the bread?

Some people seem unable to be happy about anything. There may be truth to the notion that those who spend their energy being grouchy all day, always barking about something, are very likely to be dog-tired at night.

The book of James has a lesson for us regarding our complaints and the misuse of our tongues. "How great a forest is

set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire" (James 3:5-6, NRSV).

As Christians, may we use our tongues to light the fire of Good News, rather than fires of discontent!


### Truthful answer

A Sunday school teacher was telling the story of the Good Samaritan. In graphic detail she described how the assaulted man was left helpless beside the road. Then she asked the class, "If you came upon a wounded man lying by the road and he had blood all over him, what would you do?"

A dainty girl spoke first, "I think," she said with a wince, "that I'd probably throw up."



**Trip to Haiti?** Scholarship money is available for anyone seeking to be part of a VIM team to Haiti in August. Rick Jost is the team leader and needs folks willing to go and put solar ovens together for the people of Haiti. See Pastor Jan if you are interested.




## Just for KIDS

### FATHERS IN THE BIBLE

God plans for our fathers to play important parts in our lives. Fill in the puzzle squares with names of important fathers from the Bible. Use the clues and verse references below to help.

**DOWN**

1. King Solomon's father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4)
4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac. (Genesis 22:1-2)
6. He had 12 sons. (Genesis 35:22)
7. Samuel's father (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
9. His son was Obed. (Ruth 4:21)
10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons. (Ruth 4:17)



**ACROSS**

2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark. (Genesis 6:10)
3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away the birthright of his older son Esau. (Genesis 27:30)
5. The Father of our Lord (Ephesians 1:3)
7. His sons were not like Samuel. They were wicked. (1 Samuel 2:12).
8. David's best friend and father of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6)
11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:25)
12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus. (Matthew 1:20-21)
13. Father of Jonathan, he was chosen by the people as the first king of Israel. (2 Samuel 9:6)

## July Family Committee

Twila Ruden  
 Joyce & Allen Walter  
 Kay & Ben Brandt  
 Crystal & Doug Sippel  
 JoAnn & Richard Krueger  
 Ruby & Eugene Luce  
 Michelle & Chuck Padfield  
 Marjorie & Russell Townsend  
 Darlys Kampa  
 Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt  
 Pat Dahlquist  
 Rodney Boehmer  
 Gene Cassels  
 Todd Thurston  
**Honorary Members**  
 ) Earl & Jean Lowary  
 ) Ruby Fuller  
 ) Emery Sippel  
 ) Lorraine Bartz  
 ) Herron Smith  
 ) Doris Strom

### Extra Responsibilities

- ) Mow Lawn Each Week
- ) Clean Sunday School Superintendent's Office & Restrooms
- ) No Potluck
- ) July 2, White altar cloths and hang communion banners for this day only
- ) July 9, green altar cloths and monthly banners need changing



July 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					





## UMYF MISSION TRIP

The UMYF took a mission trip on Good Friday. We went to the Lake Poinsett United Methodist Church Camp to help get ready for the camping season. We helped build racks for the water toys, built a boat dock, and assembled and placed in the (42 degree) water a boat ramp. Those that were able to go were: Jacob Merkel, Sam Furman, Lucius Geffre, Amanda, Lee and Christi Swenson, and one youth from another church, Bryan Becker.

We spent all day Friday

working at the camp, then relaxed at a motel Fri. night in Wattertown. Our trip was a great success, and even though everyone was exhausted by the end of the day, many youth said they would like to do this again next year. The camp will be starting to build new cabins next fall. Maybe we can go as a church again to help out.

Please encourage the youth and adults to take advantage of our summer camping program. Camp booklets are available at the church.





# GROTON UMW MAY BREAKFAST





# GROTON AD COUNCIL MINUTES - MAY 10TH

Eleven members were present on May 10 to discuss the following agenda items:

## Finance / Endowment / Memorial:

Apportionment payments are up-to-date

\$400 of interest from the Mamie Johnson Camping Fund was used to pay for camping tuition

## Pastor/Parish:

Pastor Jan will be gone from July 15 – Aug. 5 to attend class to complete her education to become a licensed local pastor.

## Groton's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend:

The Groton UMC will host a free will salad luncheon on July 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be celebrating our 120<sup>th</sup> church anniversary also.

## New Business:

There was discussion regarding a new church directory. Some members felt that we should consider local help in preparing a directory. Additional discussion will be held.

## Prosperity and generosity

The clergyman Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887) once warned his parishioners to be aware of the problem of focusing too much on their possessions "lest prosperity destroy generosity."

Dr. Beecher was following the teachings and practice of his Lord Jesus, who was never prejudiced against wealthy people. In fact, he sometimes sought them out.

Consider the tax collector, Zacchaeus, for example. Jesus saw him perched in a tree and asked him to come down. Then Jesus told Zacchaeus that he was going to have lunch at his home right away. Jesus had invited himself to dine with the rich man who was hated by many!

Before Jesus left the man's home, Zacchaeus was thoroughly changed. Instead of being focused upon prosperity, he became centered on generosity. He said to Jesus, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much" (Luke 19:8, NRSV).

The man's prosperity had evolved into generosity all because of one visit from Jesus.

What changes might occur in our lives, if we allow Christ to visit us?



## Groton Stewardship Report May 2006

Average Wkly Giving  
\$1,587

Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs  
\$1,706

Average Weekly Attendance  
73

Total Building Fund Offerings  
\$90

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

**GROTON/CONDE UMC PARISHES**

## OUR CHURCH HAPPENINGS

June 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	



Jun 4 Pentecost Sunday - Wear Red!

New Members Class

Jun 5 Conde serving "The Banquet" in Sioux Falls

Jun 6-10 Dakotas Annual Conference in Watertown

Jun 14 Flag Day

Groton Ad Council 8 PM

Jun 18 Father's Day

Jun 21 Groton UMW Meeting 7:30 PM "Chair Exercises"

Groton UMW Nomination Committee Meets 6:30 PM

Groton UMW Officers & Program Resource Chairmen Meet

6:30 PM

Jun 25 Newsletter Items Due

Jun 28 Conde Ad Council 8 PM

**Bible Study** meeting each Tuesday 10:00 am. Open to all in the area to share in this learning time.

**Prayer Group** meeting each Tuesday at 11:00 am.

**Ecumenical Men's Bi**



### Pentecost Sunday - Wear Red!