



# United Methodist Messenger

**Christmas  
Eve  
Service**

**Conde 5 PM  
Groton 7 PM**

**Worship  
Times  
Change  
January  
6th**

**Conde at 9 AM  
Groton at 11  
AM**



*"Bethlehem...  
out of you will come...  
one who will be  
ruler over Israel."  
MICAH 5:2, NIV*

**December 2007**

**Groton/Conde Parishes**

## *Yearnings vs. earnings*

This is the time of year when we look at how much is Christmas giving going to cost us? We have our monthly earnings and yet all the things many desire far exceed those earnings. We seem to squeeze more out of the earnings by putting more on credit and extending our desires and give pleasure rather than maintaining. It amazes me that Christmas seems to sneak up on some folks. We do have twelve months to prepare for this time and not let it get out of hand, and some do, but the rest fall into the conventional hype of do all, have all, buy all, somehow.

I trust and hold fast to my faith in God's goodness and in His presence in me. No matter what the appearance or outer condition, God's love, supports, and strengthens me. This is my prayer.

God will provide us with all the necessities and the rest is just the "whipped cream".

We, in our family, have decided for many factors this year, to give ourselves very little. We will take care of necessities first, and a tiny bit of gift giving this year. All of us extended family too, to give to others in new ways and not dwell on ourselves. If we can share what we have with others, pack things to be used by agencies and groups, then that is our plan. We will give gift cards of minimal size and let persons shop for their own needs. We will be looking for ways to reach out to others in new ways this year. One idea came from a younger one to share music from old records,

make new CD's and share in that way. Minimal cost and a little time--Perfect!

As Christmas comes, can we not prepare our hearts to give more of ourselves to God and less to the commercial pleas around us. God's goodness covers us all and will continue to do so 'til the end of time. The gift He gave was His ONLY SON, how can we pay back for eternal life through Him. We just can't---share the love.

In Christ with joy and peace,  
Pastor Jan

## **Shoebox Christmas 2008**

We had a great time this year and it was worth it once again to see 375 boxes go to Aberdeen North Highland to be finished. Most of the boxes this year were headed toward Enemy Swim area to be handed out there real soon in December.

Our churches gave generously once again as: Conde had 29 boxes filled and Groton had 19 with 48 total to the group effort. Good work for all. I was able to take the boxes to the ship point and help spend time to fill and check the balance of goods in the total group. Tables there were full of items to add to each box. Warm hats and mittens put inside and a bit of toys, candy, games, and grooming items too. Each of us played a part to make a younger persons life full of joy and excitement when received.

It is a hard time of year after giving so much to our own yearly gathering of collected goods, fall dinners, and community dinners to add one more thing. But, Shoebox Christmas is so important to those who are receiving those precious gifts from others. Another way we can share Christ to the world. I'm glad I could see it come together in His name. Pastor Jan

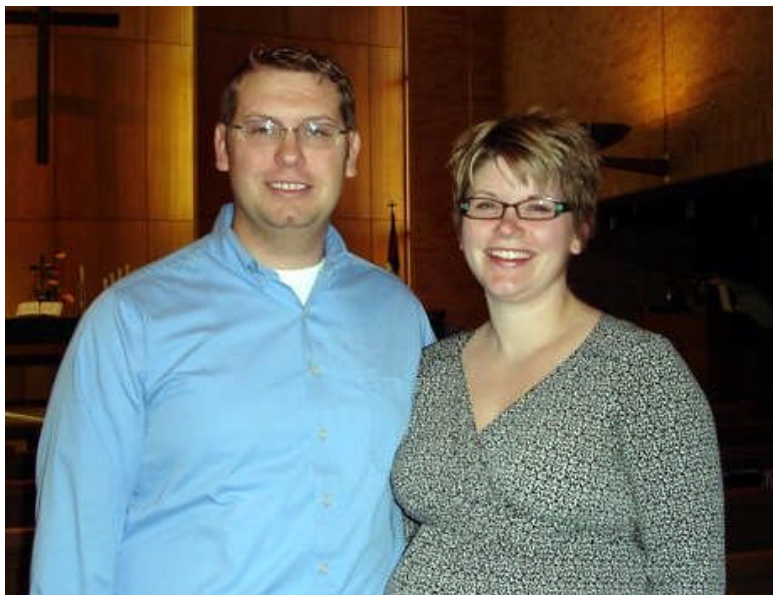
## Our Church Celebrations

### 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 13 Melissa Gilbert  
 Dec 15 Marjae Schinkel  
 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 23 Casey Seelye  
     John Padfield  
 Dec 25 Steve O'Neill  
 Dec 26 Ben Peterson  
 Dec 27 Emily Overacker  
     Jane Johnson  
     Karla Pasteur  
 Dec 28 Jaden Dobbins  
 Dec 29 Andrea Davidson  
 Dec 30 Alec Oleson  
     Alex Graf  
 Dec 31 Pastor Jan  
**Groton Anniversaries**  
 Dec 11 Dave & Connie Nilsson

Dec 14 Bob & MaryAnn Wehde  
 Dec 20 Lon & Marva Gellhaus  
 Dec 23 Marc & Fran Sippel  
 Dec 27 Nathan & Katie Zeeb  
 Dec 31 Ralph & Virginia Breitreutz  
**Conde Birthday's**  
 Dec 1 Joyce Haskell  
 Dec 8 Tony Bruckner  
 Dec 10 Skylar Bonn  
 Dec 20 Rex Taylor  
 Dec 26 Darlene Meyer  
 Dec 31 Pastor Jan  
**Conde Anniversaries**  
 Dec 4 Stacy & Greg Bonn  
 Dec 27 Dorothy & Richard Sanderson



**Groton Welcomes Nathan & Katie Zeeb  
 Joined our Church on November 25th**

### Groton UMC



Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Jean Lowary	731-5256
Audrey Thurston	397-8493
Gert Ruden	397-8211
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Florann Norris	97-2638
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 70 on email prayer chain.



**Conde UMW Meeting Minutes - November**

CONDE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN met at 2:00 PM, Wednesday, November 14 at the church. Eight members and one guest shared the World Thank Offering with Jane Worlie, which followed the Native American theme. God is the sustainer of life, and we are to be supporters or sustainers for others. As we collected our offerings and pledges, this was our way of offering ourselves to sustain others.

Donna Hearnen opened the business meeting by singing the Purpose Song, followed by Patty Knoll reading from the Conference Devotional Book.

Members are to be prepared to send special greetings to others at the next meeting.

Gifts were received from Eleanor Dittus MacMillan and Lila Herr Olson. New tablecloths will be purchased as they are available. We will also be buying clothing for children in Redfield this Christmas.

The next General Meeting will be December 3rd at 11:00 AM with Pat

Siefken leading the Christmas lesson. Donna Hearnen and Donna Walter will serve the lunch, followed by the business meeting. Any and all are invited to the meeting.

There will be changes in InGathering kits for this next year. No toothpaste should be included, but money may be sent for the Health Kits; School Kits will not include construction paper, but may include an extra pad or tablet of writing paper.

Christmas Church Decorating will begin at 9:00 AM on December 1st, Saturday. There will be lunch served for all the workers. We invite you to join us for the morning.

Shoe Box Christmas donations will be delivered to North Highland Church. \$175.00 had been collected to buy necessary gifts for these special boxes to be delivered to Indian Reservations in the Dakotas.

Hostesses were Lois Trapp and Betty Taylor.

**Conde UMW  
December 5th  
11:00 AM**

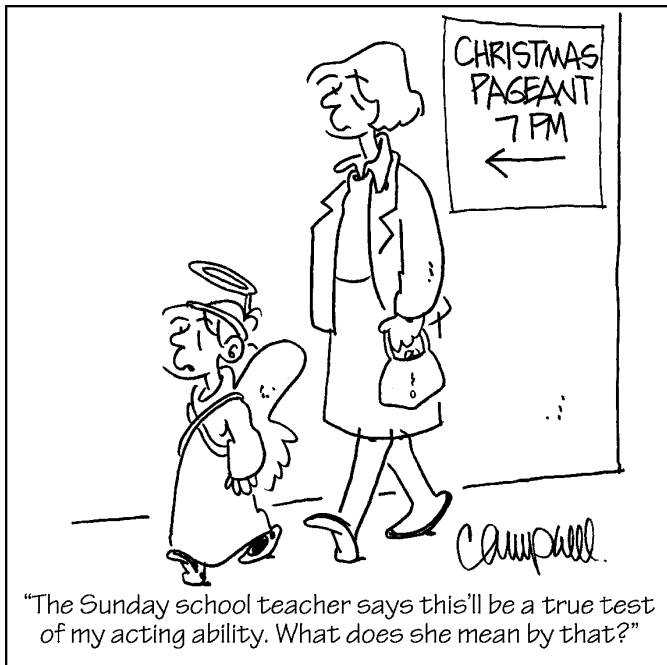
**Christmas  
Lesson by  
Pat Siefken**

**Lunch Served by  
Donna Walter  
& Donna  
Hearnen**

**Business  
meeting will  
follow. All are  
invited to this  
special meeting.**

**Conde  
Martha Circle  
Dec 12  
7:00 PM**

If you would like to furnish a poinsettia plant for the church in honor or memory of a loved one, contact Donna Walter; either to tell her you will bring one, or she will purchase the plant for you. Thank you.



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

## Groton UMW Minutes - November

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women met Wednesday afternoon, November 14th.

Pastor Jan Price gave the program, "Christmas--Our Place in the Story." Readers were Clare Brotherton, JoAnn Krueger, Marvel Johnson and Sharon Wheating.

Jolene Townsend presided at the meeting. The Purpose was recited. A thank you note for the donation was read from the Salvation Army. Treasurer Clare Brotherton read the proposed budget for 2008 which was accepted. Susan Odland reported there is still a supply of fleece throws for sale.

A trip to Sager-Brown in Louisiana

was discussed. Sager-Brown is a distribution warehouse for UMCOR (United Methodist Council on Relief). The president discussed the list of projects that the local unit might adopt for special emphasis during the year. Two of the ongoing projects are the Secret Angels and the Christmas goody boxes.

Caralee Heitmann and JoAnn Krueger served lunch at the close of the afternoon. The next meeting will be the Christmas luncheon on December 12 at 12:00 p.m. at the Latte on Main. After the luncheon the Christmas goody boxes will be assembled and delivered to special people.



**Tuesday 10 AM**

**Bible Study**

**January 8th**

**We are starting**

**a new study on**

**Christian**

**Virtues. Please**

**Contact Kay**

**Brandt for a**

**book to come**

**and learn with**

**the rest of us!**

## Groton UMW Christmas Luncheon

Luncheon will take place on December 12 at 11:30 at the Latte Café. RSVP to Gloria Pharis if you are attending by December 9th.

We will be assembling Christmas Goodies at the church after the luncheon. Please bring a couple dozen cookies, candy, or other Christmas Goodie packaged individually. If you are unable to come to the luncheon, you can still help with this project by dropping off your goodies in the kitchen.

The Christmas Goodies will be delivered after they are assembled. Come & Join the fun!



## Someone took Jesus

A couple of days after Christmas, the Nativity scene was still up in the chancel of a San Francisco church. Walking by it, the pastor noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from the manger.

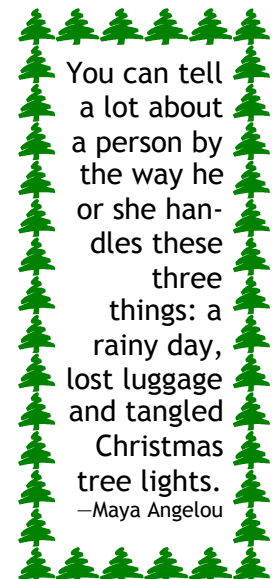
Shortly afterward, as the pastor walked outside the church, he saw a small boy pulling a new wagon. In the wagon bed was a doll that looked very much like the missing baby Jesus.

The pastor greeted the boy and asked him about the doll.

"I got it in the church," the boy replied.

"Why did you take it from the church?"

"Well," the boy answered. "I prayed for a new wagon and told the Lord Jesus that if I got one, I would give him a ride. I got the wagon, took him for a ride and now I'm bringing him back to the church."

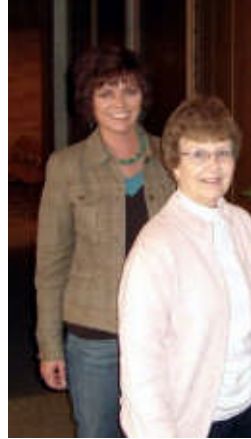


You can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.

—Maya Angelou



Thank you to all our  
decorators for Christmas!

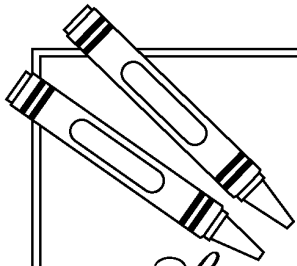






**Thank you to  
all who made  
the Groton  
Men's Dinner a  
success!**





# Just for **KIDS**

## *The Son of the Highest*

A new baby brings joy and the anticipation of what he or she will grow up to become. Jesus' birth was miraculous, but His life was prophesied and planned by God.

Unscramble the words below, matching them to their correct spelling. Then use the numbers to fill in the correct words to complete Luke 1:32-33 (NIV).

- |           |        |            |         |
|-----------|--------|------------|---------|
| 12. taerg | he     | 2. noS     | forever |
| 8. eh     | Jacob  | 11. seouh  | end     |
| 13. gHhi  | father | 5. northe  | Son     |
| 7. aDvid  | give   | 1. roevfr  | house   |
| 10. bocJa | great  | 6. dingmok | throne  |
| 3. reafth | High   | 9. den     | kingdom |
| 4. vieg   | David  |            |         |

"He will be \_\_\_\_\_ and will be called the \_\_\_\_\_  
12 2  
of the Most \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord God will \_\_\_\_\_  
13 4  
him the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_,  
5 3 7  
and \_\_\_\_\_ will reign over the \_\_\_\_\_  
8 11  
of \_\_\_\_\_; his \_\_\_\_\_ will  
10 1 6  
never \_\_\_\_\_."  
9 *Luke 1:32-33, NIV*

Answers: 1. forever 2. Son 3. father 4. give 5. throne 6. kingdom 7. David 8. he 9. end 10. Jacob 11. house 12. great 13. High

**Wanted in Groton!**  
**5th & 6th Grade Sunday**  
**School Teachers**  
**For the Spring Quarter**



# Sunday School SCHEDULE

**Groton--  
December**

- 2-SS
- 9-Christmas Program
- 16-SS
- 23- No Sunday school
- 30- No Sunday school

**January**

- 6-SS
- 13-SS
- 20-SS
- 27-Sing in Church

**February**

- 3-SS
- 10-SS
- 17-No SS (President's Day)
- 24-SS

**March**

- 2-SS
- 9-No SS (Spring Break)
- 16-SS & Sing in Church (Palm Sunday)
- 23-No SS (Easter Sunday)

**April**

- 6-SS
- 13-SS
- 20-SS & Sing in Church
- 27-SS

**May**

- 4-SS
- 11-SS & Sing in Church (Mother's Day)
- Last Day of Sunday School

VBS Tentative Schedule is  
May 19-23 from 6:30-8:30  
PM. Watch for definite times  
& dates.



## January Family Committee - Groton

**Karla & Russell Davidson,  
Michaela Oleson,  
Kristopher Oleson**

**Alan & Vicki Strom**

**Kim & Craig Weber (Jan & Nov)**

Kelli & Lars Hanson, Cody, Dylan

Jay & Linda Johnson (Jan & Nov)

Josh & Meri Atherton

Francine & Mark Sippel

Jeanne Wanous

Pernell & Noella Graf

Kevin Pharis

Clarence & Ida Hannon

Anita & Gary Voss



John Padfield  
Lynette & Terry Furman, Sam  
Derick & Christine Furman

### Honorary Members

- Audrey Padfield
- Bob & Marvel Johnson
- Audrey Thurston
- Clare Brotherton
- Herron Smith



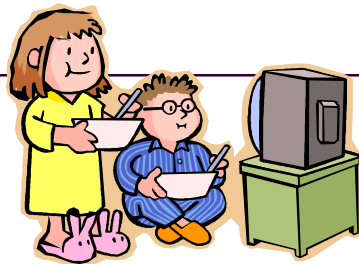
## Birthday of Charles Wesley - December 18th

Who is Charles Wesley? Probably the most notable hymn writer of all time, truly the best advocate of Wesleyan Spirituality. We are celebrating the 300th anniversary of his birth this year.

In Wesley's time, music was used as a tool to reach all the people. Charles Wesley always used spiritual quotes from the Bible, which he either set to tunes or someone would write the

tunes. His hymns expressed all human expressions and were especially meaningful to everyone.

His message was: To love God and one another. Know that Jesus is our Savior. Share the gospel with our neighbor and the world. Serve the needs of others. Oppose injustice, oppression and evils. Be supportive of our Church.



## UMC TV Ads

During Advent, United Methodist Communications will air ads to forward the presence of the United Methodist Church. These will air on major channels Weather, CNN, MSNBC, Fox, etc.. Watch for them!

United Methodist Communications has also been placing ads on the internet to target 22-44 year olds who feel like something is missing from their life and are looking for meaning or purpose.

They appeared on sites such as Beliefnet, eHarmony, Yahoo, CitySearch, About.com and other sites hoping for an audience of 21 million people.

To view these ads you may go to <http://unitedmethodist.org/tvspotsframe.html>

## Christmas Eve Prayer

Give us, O God, the vision which can see your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

—Frank Borman, Apollo 8 commander

## Share Christmas at the Golden Living Center

If you are able to share a talent for a short time, please do so this Holiday Season. Maybe your talent is having coffee and visiting, then please spread some Holiday Cheer with those at the Nursing Home.

They love visits, readings, music, and anything else you have to share.

Call Annette Helm  
at 397-2365





## Groton Ad Council Minutes - November

Newsletter Items from Nov. 14, Admin Council Meeting

**Finance:** The 2008 budget was presented and approved by the Administrative Council. Overall the budget is less than 2007 mostly due to apportionments being less as a result of the work done to clean up our membership roles.

**Witness:** Clare Brotherton reported on the work she has been doing to clean up our membership roles.

**Youth Fellowship:** The youth group plans to meet twice a month. There were six or seven at the first meeting,

which included a meal.

**Janitorial Services:** The board approved the hiring of Kelly Hanson to provide janitorial services for our church.

**Advent Studies:** Pastor Jan presented two options for adult Advent studies. We will see how much interest there is and what the best time for these study groups would be before deciding on the study material.



## Projector Slide Show in Church - Groton

We have experimented on what it would be like to have the announcements, songs, scripture, and other items during worship up on a screen in front of us. Many of you commented on how much you enjoyed this and how it enhanced the worship service. There is much more that we can do with this. Like adding video moments that have messages for all of us but mostly geared towards our teens. Pictures of what is happening in our church. Just think of the wonderful slideshows that could be projected during funerals or weddings? How about a Memorial Day slideshow honoring all those that have passed and maybe even show how memorial donations have been used. The list can go

on and on at the possibilities. Even use it for Vacation Bible School!

This project will be discussed at the next Ad Board meeting. To do this it would take substantial funding. So, if this project interests you and you are willing to help enhance our worship service then please talk to Jerry Rix, Anita Lowary, or myself.

The screen would go up on the wall on the right hand side of the cross where the banner is and be the whole width of that wall. So, much larger than our experiment and much higher.

Thank you for your input.

Kay Brandt

<b>Groton Stewardship Report November 2007</b>	
Average Wkly Giving	\$2,013
Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs	\$1,742
Average Weekly Attendance	70
Total Building Fund Offerings	\$95

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



**Christmas Eve Worship**  
**Conde is 5 PM**  
**Groton is 7 PM**

*Christ IS Born!*

December 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					

**Worship  
Times  
Change  
January 6th**

**Conde at 9 AM  
Groton at 11 AM**



### Our Church Happenings

- Dec 2 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec 2 Conde Advent Study after church with light meal (Dec 9, 16, & 23)
- Dec 4 Groton Advent Study 7 PM (Dec 11 & 18 also)
- Dec 5 Conde UMW at 11 AM
- Dec 5 Groton UMYF 6:30 PM
- Dec 9 Groton Sunday School Christmas Program during worship  
Juice, Coffee, & Rolls will be served after worship in Groton
- Dec 12 Groton UMW Christmas Luncheon at 11:30 AM  
Groton UMW Christmas Goodie Distribution after Luncheon
- Dec 12 Conde Martha Circle 7 PM
- Dec 12 Groton Ad Council 7 PM
- Dec 19 Conde Sunday School Program 7 PM
- Dec 19 Conde Ad Council following the SS Program.
- Dec 23 Conde World Hunger Collection
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service: Conde 5 PM & Groton 7 PM
- Jan 8 Groton Tuesday AM Bible Study starting a new study - join us!

