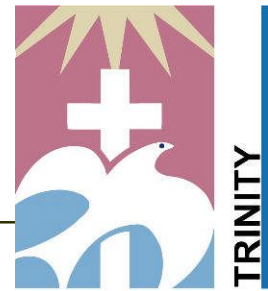


United Methodist Messenger

NOVEMBER 2007

GROTON/CONDE PARISHES



Character

What we have

When we look at what we want, and then compare that with what we have, we shall be unhappy.

When we think about what we really deserve, and then compare that with what we actually have, we shall thank God.



Our world of open acceptance of so many things allows us to look at things in a much different way.

I know you are going to roll your eyes, but here goes. When I was a kid, (who can go back that far!) a person who said they were going to do something almost always did. You could count on them. And a man who shook your hand when you agreed to do something kept his word and did not go back on it. You could count on it. I grew up in an era when a person's character counted for something. Now days if you made a contract and shook hands on it, your friends and family would call you foolish.

Our world has changed much and it still is a wonderful place, but we need to stand for something when we speak and when we agree to take care of things for others. It is the right thing to do.

God & our beliefs - builds character too

Most of us believe in God. Lots of us know we can have a real commitment to Jesus Christ.

Do we understand that God is three portions of a Triune God? We can grasp God as the Creator of all things—our Father. In order to go to heaven we need then to believe on God's Son, Jesus Christ. In studying our Bible just a little bit we learn that Jesus as a boy then man never sinned. Jesus was sinless, honest, pure and true.

The third part is finding our belief in the Holy Spirit that is a guide and director of our lives if we ask and allow that leading.

The Holy Spirit is God among us since Jesus Christ since his death, burial and resurrection is now in heaven with God .

We don't have to know how and why these things happen when we understand the awesome power of Creator God.

Many in our day think that Satan is a myth, legend, story to scare people and realign their behaviors. The existence of Satan is real and manifests in many places, things, ideas, and directions to woe us into Satan's whims to fool.

Many who have been in church their whole lives have never thought about the Triune basis of God or Satan in our world so it's no wonder they just want to "get along" and live in harmony. That is the world saying there are no consequences for our behaviors or that a kind God would allow everyone into heaven. Don't lean in that direction. It's not in God's character. Think about God's goodness, his commandments, and promises and learn that God expects us to take the first step in saving ourselves from a life lost in nothingness. God wants us to end up alongside of God where real joy will be found. God's, and ours too.

We have real truth in our Bibles a book that has guided us more than 2000 years to this point. Get the point walk with the Master.

In Christ, Pastor Jan

David Kinnaman, president of The Barna Group "A Field Guide to Spiritual Beliefs" basis for this article

Our Church Celebrations

Groton Birthday's

Nov 2 Andrea Snoozy-Bahr
 Nov 3 Lorraine Bartz
 Nov 7 Marva Gellhaus
 Susan Odland
 Nov 10 Florran Norris
 Lee Swenson
 Nov 11 Doug Sippel
 Nov 12 Clarence Hannon
 Nov 14 Vicki Strom
 Nov 15 Jack Oliver
 Nov 16 Halley Schmidt
 Nov 19 Crystal Sippel
 Garrett Heitmann

Michael Krueger

Nov 21 Art Lange
 Nov 23 Francine Sippel
 Nov 25 Emery Sippel
 Kari Hanson
 Nov 29 Audrey Thurston
 Nov 30 Tanner Johnson

Groton Anniversaries

Nov 3 Jon & Gayleen Voss
 Nov 15 Fred & Elaine Wolken
 Nov 21 Larry & Sharon Wheeting

Conde Birthday's

Nov 3 Marsha Murphy
 Nov 8 Dorothy Sanderson
 Nov 13 Arlene Peterson
 Nov 24 Floyd Smith
 Nov 25 Bud Bruckner
 Nov 28 Eric Menzia
 Nov 29 Cheri Kurtz

Conde Anniversaries

Nov 20 Bill & Wava Thomas



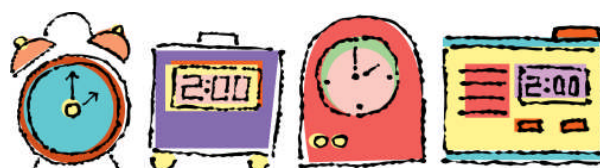
were baptized on September 30th

Groton UMC



Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Jean Lowary	731-5256
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 70 on email prayer chain.



DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME ENDS

Senior Resource Fair

Takes place Wednesday, Nov 7th from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm at the Ramkota Inn Convention Center in Aberdeen, SD. Free Admission with 65 booths available. Speakers are 10 AM "Stroke Awareness", 10:45 AM "Having Cancer...Finding Help", 11:30 AM "Medication Reconciliation", 12:30 PM "Making golden Years Golden", 1:00 PM "Friendship Singers" from RSVP.

Flu Shots are Free with Medicare or Medicaid Card. \$18 without card (based on Vaccine Availability)

Free Screenings for blood sugar, blood

pressure, depression/anxiety, flexibility/range of motion, glaucoma, hearing plus, Medicare Part D, Cancer Screening, Solar Sensitivity, and Visual Acuity. Door Prizes and Refreshments will be available.



Don't forget to Sign-up for Poinsettias this month for the altar on Christmas!



Nov 25
Groton

ADVENT
DECORATING

An offertory prayer for Thanksgiving

Merciful and generous Lord, you open your loving hands and bless us abundantly every day of our lives. Even when we go through dark times – suffering, sorrow, pain, desperation – you assure us that your loving, everlasting arms will not let us go. How generous are all your benefits, how supportive, how comforting to experience.

Today we join with "the great cloud of witnesses" who once praised you on

Earth and now glorify you in heaven, offering our deepest gratitude for all the gifts you so generously give.

Accept then our thanksgiving for your love, your grace and all the blessings you bestow on us daily. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



Bible basics

All Christians must take seriously our responsibility to "learn the ABCs" – learn "About the Bible in Church." Unless we read it, study it, learn what's in it and feel comfortable with it in our hands and on our tongues, we cannot truly love the Word of God. Instead, we're intimidated by it, afraid of it, shocked by it or simply remain ignorant of it.

Let us all be renewed in a faith that has been enriched by the gift of Scripture so we may end our worship by saying: "We were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives" (1 Thessalonians 2:8, NASB).



Sign Up to help with the Groton Community Thanksgiving Dinner Today! Or call Carol Strom to Volunteer!

Conde UMW Minutes - October

The Conde Unit met at 2:00 PM October 17 at the church with five members present. Pat Siefken presented the program with the music of Psalm 92. She asked the members to name their favorite songs - two hymns and a secular number, if wished. In reading the Scripture, it was found many instruments were used in worship during Biblical times. John Wesley's "Directions for Singing" from the United Methodist Hymnal were read; hymns were lifted up noting the poetry and the hymn tunes that were used. The works of Charles Wesley were discussed, as he has written many hymns.

President Donna Hearnen opened the meeting by reading from the Conference Devotional Booklet for the year. Serving chairs for the months of October, November and December are Donna Hearnen and

Donna Walter.

Pat Siefken reported on the Annual Meeting in Pierre with about 200 present at the First United Methodist Church which had been newly remodeled and was now Handicapped Accessible.

Sager Brown material was presented. Anyone may go to work there at buildings, grounds or assembling the kits that will be used for others. Fees and other information were included.

Martha Circle, meeting the first Wednesday of the month, will be using the study book, "Longing to Pray".

Program Books for 2008 have been purchased and plans will be made for the next year and distributed to members.

The meeting closed with all members repeating the Mizpah

Groton UMW Minutes - October

The Groton United Methodist Women convened at the church at 2:00 p.m. October 17th. Doris Zoellner was in charge of the Thank Offering program entitled, "Sustainers of Life", with all participating. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission carried on through the Women's Division, mission in the US and around the world. Members received new boxes for their 2008 collections.

The PURPOSE was recited and President Jolene Townsend presided at the meeting. Collections are beginning for the Shoebox Christmas project that will replace the layettes for the Ingathering. Separate pieces for the boxes may be brought to the church for assembly and the deadline is November 30th. All were reminded to continue to collect pop tabs, grocery receipts can labels etc.

The Bazaar held on October 3rd was a decided success. Gloria Pharis thanked all who helped and donated.

Gloria Pharis distributed a sheet for program and hostess volunteers for 2008.

Officers for 2008 were elected as follows:

Jolene Townsend, president; Twila Ruden, vice-president; Gloria Pharis, secretary; Clare Brotherton, treasurer; Doris Zoellner, Spiritual Growth chairman; Marjorie Townsend, Membership chairman; JoAnn Krueger, Social Action; Marlys Rodman and Susan Odland, Education / Interpretation, co-chairpersons; Linda Thurston, secretary of Program Resources; and Chris Nyberg and Jane Johnson, Nominations co-chairpersons.

The mission award pins will be presented on UMW Sunday.

Monetary donations were made to local projects, the Groton Transit, Salvation Army, and Youth Center.

The next meeting will be the Christmas luncheon at the Latte on Main for UMW members on December 12th at 1:30 p.m. After lunch gift boxes of treats will be filled and delivered to special people.

At the close of the meeting, Michelle Kramer and Rose Tewksbury served a tasty lunch.

Conde UMW Meeting

Wednesday
November 14th
2:00 PM

Jane Worlie gives the lesson on the World Thank Offering



Groton UMW Prayer Vigil

November 28
United Methodist
Student Day

Pray for students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge.

Read Isaiah 64:8b

Check UMW Book for your time to Pray.

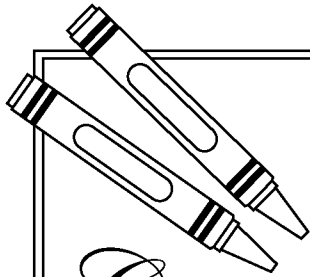
Groton UMW Meeting

November 14 2:00 PM

Leader: Jan Price
Hostesses:

JoAnn Krueger &
Caralee Heitmann

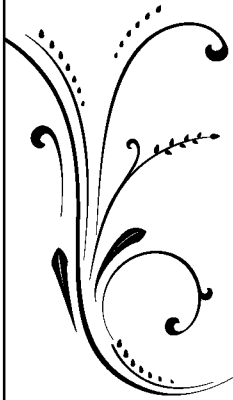
*Executive Meeting
at 1:00 PM*



Just for **KIDS**

Counting Our Blessings

THANKSGIVING IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO "COUNT OUR BLESSINGS." GOD BLESSES EACH OF US DAILY IN SO MANY WAYS. SOLVE THE FOLLOWING MATH PROBLEMS. THEN WRITE THE WORDS ON THE NUMBERED LINES BELOW TO COMPLETE EPHESIANS 1:3, NIV.



- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 14 - 7 = ___ Father | 10 + 15 = ___ in |
| 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly | 6 - 3 = ___ to |
| 10 + 5 = ___ blessed | 12 - 6 = ___ and |
| 2 - 1 = ___ Praise | 6 + 6 = ___ Christ |
| 7 + 7 = ___ has | 18 - 9 = ___ our |
| 11 + 11 = ___ every | 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus |
| 12 + 12 = ___ blessing | 1 + 1 = ___ be |
| 10 + 10 = ___ realms | 7 + 6 = ___ who |
| 13 + 13 = ___ Christ | 2 + 2 = ___ the |
| 8 + 8 = ___ us | 10 - 5 = ___ God |
| 8 + 9 = ___ in | 4 + 4 = ___ of |
| 5 + 5 = ___ Lord | 9 + 9 = ___ the |
| 10 + 11 = ___ with | 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual |

"

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		

"

EPHESIANS 1:3, NIV

Answer: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

Sunday School SCHEDULE

November***

- 4-SS
- 11-SS
- 18-SS
- 25- No Sunday School (Thanksgiving)

December***

- 2-SS
- 9-Christmas Program
- 16-SS
- 23- No Sunday school (Christmas break)
- 30- No Sunday school (Christmas break)
- ***There may be some additional Christmas program practices scheduled in November and December.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV



Groton UMYF

Meeting November 7th from 6:30- 8:00 PM for a fun night, supper, and a planning session.

United Methodist Student Day - Nov 25

"I grew up in Salem United Methodist Church, Fond du Lac, Wis. To say the church has influenced me isn't enough. My family at Salem has shaped who I am today. Not only have they taught me about God and my faith, but from them I've learned about life. They taught me how to love, how to be loved; that I am special, capable, worthy of what I have been given and obligated to give back. There is no greater influence on my life than my church."

Kimberly "Kim" Brook, a senior at North Central College, Naperville, Ill., is grateful for the church she loves and for the financial assistance that allows her to attend a private Christian college. "With scholarships," she says, "I am able to go to the school of my choice. I like the small class sizes and the opportunities to enrich my college experience."

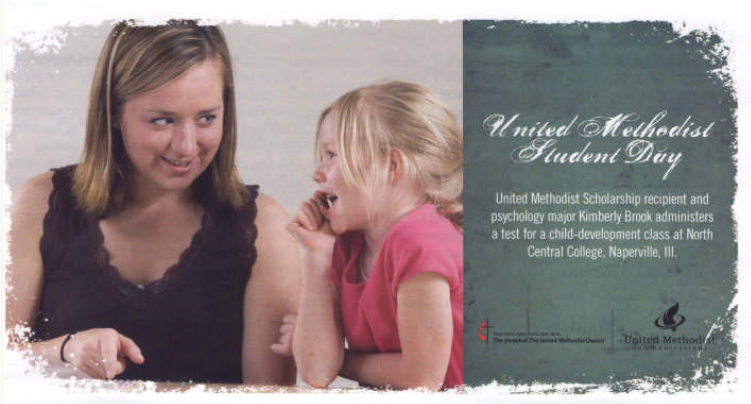
Thanks to generous gifts on United Meth-

odist Study Day, Kim and other talented students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities receive scholarships and loans. "I hope to continue my education and to get my doctorate so I can become a professor of psychology," she notes. Whether teaching vacation Bible school, writing and directing church musicals, participating in leadership roles at the annual conference level or serving as a volunteer in mission, Kim shows initiative, maturity and a profound love for Jesus Christ. She looks forward to the future: "I have many more things to do and places to go!"

Your offering on United Methodist Student Day, the last Sunday in November, guides promising students "into the way of peace." Please give generously! Your gift makes a world of difference! Thank You!

Students in your annual conference—and perhaps your congregation—benefit from this offering. Please celebrate and give generously.

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light... to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke 1:78-79, NRSV



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



Conde Laity Sunday



Sager Brown UMCOR Trip

Dakotas Conference has planned a trip to Sager Brown UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, LA on May 31 - June 8, 2008. A bus will leave from Brookings and travel there and back. This is sponsored by the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission and the Dakotas Conference Board of Global Ministries. A deposit is due on January 10, with the balance to be paid later, the total cost being \$700. This includes your room and board while there, hotel and food en

route. You will have a comfortable, air conditioned dorm room while there with laundry and shower facilities. This is a great opportunity for service. Contact Donna Hearnen for



Searching for saints

God is on a saint search, and it's not only perfect people who are going to be found. Sure, there may be some who are born with the natural ability to love the Lord with the totality of heart, soul, mind and strength, nonstop. But for most of us, this passion and power come only after we discover that God has always loved us, and that his love precedes our own.

Fact is, most of us find the Lord only after we have been found by him.

And all God asks is that we respond with that same level of passion ... loving him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength ... and showing a willingness to love our neighbors as ourselves.

If we do, we'll be God's holy ones, set apart for his service.

—Homiletics



Shoobox Christmas 2007 - Nov 21 Deadline

Each box wrap the lid separate from the shoebox with Christmas paper. Then place a gift tag on the box with boy or girl written on the tag and the age group you choose. Rubber band the entire box closed. Age oriented ideas are as follows:

Infants: pkg infant wipes, bibs, bottles, booties, and infant toys

Girls 2-7: age appropriate educational items, reading books, dolls, stuffed animals, coloring/painting books, crayons and watercolor paints or markers, games, puzzles, hair accessories, small dolls

Boys 2-7: age appropriate educational items, cars, trucks, coloring/

painting books, crayons and watercolor paints or markers, Legos, construction toys, reading books, games, puzzles

Older boys 8-18 year youth love electronic handheld game toys, watches, games, small puzzles, flashlights, reading books - you choose fun things.

Older girls 8-18 year youth love purses, makeup, nail polishes, hair items, perfume, bath products, games, puzzles, reading books, whatever you find that's fun.

All the children need: hats, mittens, and scarves, but we shall send separately to make distribution easier. These are additional.

Holiday Candle

On Thanksgiving, we share a special meal with family and friends. Make this holiday candle as a festive centerpiece for your table.

What you need:

- Paper towel
- One 8-oz. clear plastic cup
- Petroleum jelly (Vaseline)
- Paper or plastic disposable bowl
- About 8 oz. of a variety of dried beans, peas, corn, etc.
- Bottle of white glue
- Plastic spoon
- An 8- to 10-inch taper or dinner candle
- Adult to help



What you do:

1. Using the paper towel, rub a generous amount of petroleum jelly on the inside of the cup (bottom and sides).
2. In a bowl, pour the dried-bean mixture.
3. Squeeze enough glue into the bean mixture to generously coat it. Stir the mixture with the spoon.
4. Spoon about half of the bean mixture into the greased cup. Then place the candle, with any plastic wrapping removed, into the center of the mixture. Next, fill the cup with the rest of the mixture. Smooth the top to make it flat, making sure the candle stays straight.
5. Squeeze extra glue around the hole made by the candle. Let the bean mixture dry completely, which could take a day or longer.
6. When the bean mixture is dry, gently pull the candle. Both the candle and beans should come out as one. (If they don't, pour more glue and wait another day.)
7. Place your candle on a small plate for a festive Thanksgiving centerpiece.

Thoughts for Veterans Day

Abraham Lincoln gave his second Inaugural Address on March 4, 1865, as the Civil War was raging. He said, "Fondly do we hope – fervently do we pray – that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away."

Lincoln's next paragraph is especially appropriate for Veterans Day:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right,

let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

When President Lincoln finished his classic oration, he reportedly kissed the Bible and left the platform. He was assassinated the next month.



To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing. —Martin Luther



Electronic Giving is Now Available in Groton! Electronic Giving allows your weekly or monthly contributions to be transferred electronically from your checking or savings account directly to the church account. One simple and easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contribution amount. This form is available from Anita & Kay. Sign up today!



Men's Fall Dinner

Sunday, November 11th
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Adults \$7, Children 5-12 \$5
Children 4 & under Free

Swedish Meatballs & Ham
Mashed Potatoes & Gray and Pie



Groton Stewardship Report October 2007

Average Wkly Giving
\$1,014

Needed Weekly to Meet
Church Needs
\$1,742

Average Weekly
Attendance
69

Total Building Fund
Offerings
\$90

Worship Service

Don't miss joining us for worship as we begin to bring in some slides and presentations to enhance our Worship time together this month.

Groton Mission Statement

"Enriching Spiritual Lives through Christ."

December Family Committee

JoAnn & Richard Krueger

Michelle & Chuck Padfield

Twila Ruden

Joyce & Allen Walter

Kay & Ben Brandt

Crystal & Doug Sippel

Ruby & Eugene Luce

Marjorie & Russell Townsend

Darlys Kampa

Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt

Pat Dahlquist

Rodney Boehmer

Jane & Marc Johnson, Tanner

Honorary Members

- Jean Lowary
- Ruby Fuller
- Emery Sippel
- Lorraine Bartz
- Herron Smith
- Doris Strom

December Extra Responsibilities

- Dec 2nd change the altar cloths to white and hang Communion banners for this Sunday only
- Dec 9th change altar cloths to purple
- Change banners for the Christmas Season
- Dec 24th change altar cloths to white for Christmas Eve
- Water the Poinsettias
- Clean & Organize Hallway Closet and Storage Room off the Choir Loft
- Help decorate church with November committee
- Shovel snow from doorways before church
- Potluck 2nd Sunday during Program (Optional)



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					

**GROTON/CONDE
PARISHES**

November 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	



Men's Fall Dinner

November 11th

11 AM - 1 PM

Swedish Meatballs, Ham,
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, & Pie

Our Church Happenings

- Nov 4 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 7 Senior Resource Fair 9:30-2:00 at the Ramkota Inn
- Nov 7 Groton UMYF 6:30 - 8:00 PM - supper & planning meeting & fun
- Nov 11 Men's Dinner
- Nov 14 Groton UMW at 2:00 PM with Executive Mtg at 1:00 PM
- Nov 14 Groton Finance Meeting for budget
- Nov 14 Groton Administrative Council
- Nov 18 Charge Conference in Conde at 12 PM with potluck prior
- Nov 21 Deadline for Shoebox Christmas
- Nov 22 Groton Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 25 Groton Church Decorating for Advent
- Nov 25 Groton No Sunday School
- Nov 25 Conde World Hunger Sunday
- Nov 25 United Methodist Student Day
- Nov 28 Groton UMW Prayer Vigil (see UMW book for times)
- Dec 1 & 2 Living Christmas Tree Performance in Aberdeen
- Dec 2 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec 9 Groton Sunday School Christmas Program