

*Pastor Rob's Ponderings*

I just completed watching the John Adams HBO Series. As a history buff, I was fascinated by the portrayal of this oft-misunderstood president. Although a brilliant political theoretician, Adams has been viewed as mean-spirited, divisive and even inept in dealing with others.

This series, based on exhaustive Adams biography by David McCullough, shows a man who certainly has many flaws but is fiercely loyal to his friends and who was a man of complete integrity. I especially enjoyed the portrayal of the relationship between John and his wife Abigail as well as the on-again, off-again, on-again friendship between John and Thomas Jefferson. Even Adams admits without Abigail or Jefferson, his life would have been much worse and the rest of us (posterity, as Adams calls us) would not have done as well.

Do you have friends and family like Abigail and Jefferson? I know some of us might have famous friends and family. (One of my greatest shortcomings is

"name-dropping." I love to try to build myself up by telling people about all the famous people I've met.) But this is not what I am getting at with this question. Do you have people who hold you accountable for the things you say and do? Do you have people in your life who will praise you when you do well and correct you when you do not do so well? Do you even have a person who is willing to "put you in your place" without fear of retribution?

Adams called Abigail his "ballast" because she kept him on a steady course through. He called Jefferson his friend "through the darkest hours." We have that in Jesus Christ as our Rock and our Friend. We also need those people in our lives that can speak the truth of Jesus Christ in the times when it is easy to hear and even in the times when we don't want to hear it. Do you have a relationship like that?

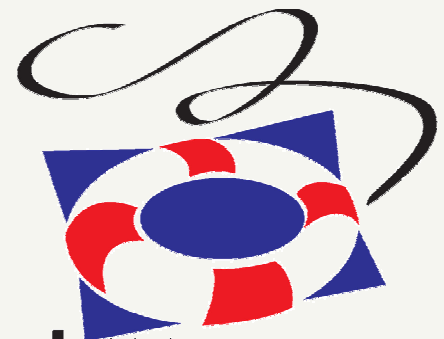
"What I want is, not to possess a faith, but to have a faith that shall possess me."

—Charles Kingsley

Do you want to know how to have a "Happy After-life?" You don't want to miss our services on August 10, 17, and 24<sup>th</sup> to get the answer to that question!

"Every generation stands on the shoulders of the generation that came before. Jealously guard the values and principles of our heritage; they did not come easy."

—Ronald Reagan



**"FOR I AM WITH YOU  
TO RESCUE  
AND SAVE YOU,"  
DECLARES THE LORD.**

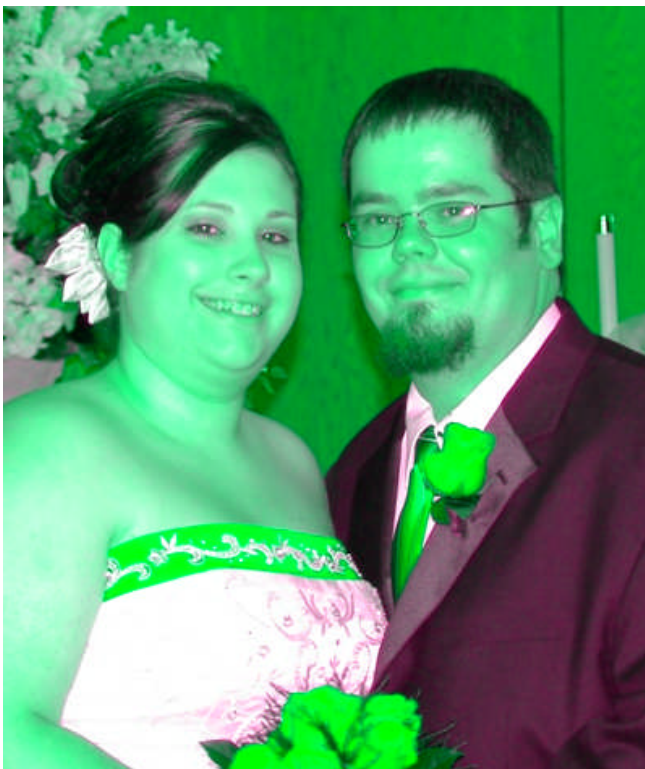


A baby girl, Mackenzie Jo, was born to Joshua and Merrie Atherton, Bristol, on Thursday, July 17th. She weighed seven pounds, fifteen ounces, and was 20 inches long. Monte and Laurel McNickle, Bath, and Carna and Cliff Pray and the late Randy Atherton are the grandparents.

*A Special*  
**THANK YOU**

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers & support in the death of our dad & grandpa, Carlie Nilsson. Your kindness & thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. He was a wonderful guy & is going to be greatly missed.

God's blessings to all, Dave, Connie, Logan & Alexa Nilsson & the Carlie Nilsson family



Angela Brandt & Perryn Dobbins were married on July 26th.

**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	397-8337
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.

## *Readers of the Groton UMW Reading Program*

Your lists of books that you have read for the year are due. Please get them to me no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, Linda Thurston, 12966 Glenwood Lane, Aberdeen, SD 57401. Thank you for participating in the UMW Reading Program.

## *School Kits*

- 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2 X 11 ruled paper
- 1 30-centimeter ruler
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 eraser that is 2 1/2"
- 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Prepare a 14X16 inch (finished size) cloth bag with handles and an optional closure (Velcro, snap, or button) and place items in the bag. Patterns are available from UMCOR Sager Borwn website or hanging in the church office by the photo copier.



## **Hay, there!**

An elderly farmer was finishing his haymaking one Sunday afternoon when his pastor drove by. "I noticed you weren't in church this morning," said the pastor. "Don't you know that the Creator made the world in six days and then rested on the seventh?"

"Yes," replied the farmer, as he looked uneasily at the rain clouds gathering in the sky. "I know all about that. But he got done and I didn't."

## *Giving Our Hearts*



## **Groton UMW Meeting**

August 20th at 7:30 pm - meeting only. Chairman & Officers meet at 6:30 pm. Lots of planning so please come!

## **Conde UMW Meeting**

will meet at the Roetelle Living Center in Clark on the afternoon of August 20, Wednesday, at 2 PM. Program Focus is Music "God's Song in God's Mission". The Leader is Pat Siefken. Volunteers needed for bars.



CONDE MISSION  
STATEMENT

"THE CONDE  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH IS SEEKING  
TO SATISFY THE  
SPIRITUAL AND  
PHYSICAL NEEDS OF  
ALL."



## Summer Storms 2008

Dakotas United Methodist Disaster Response is working to help recover from the effects of the tornado that caused damage to homes in Rolla and Belcourt, N.D., on July 7. At least eight homes were destroyed and 21 others sustained significant damages in Belcourt, which is on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in north central North Dakota. Rolla has received approximately the same amount of damage, and damage reports continue to come in. Many of these homes have little or no insurance coverage. These rural communities have drawn together, but need our support.

Immediate needs are PRAYERS and FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS to assist those affected.

Checks, with Summer Storms Fund #646 in the memo, should be made out to your local church, and sent to the Dakotas

## Helping the brokenhearted

A retired pastor counseled younger peers to remember that in every pew sits someone dealing with a broken heart. Hasn't that been us at some point? What have we learned from our brokenness? What helps? What doesn't?

People who are hurting don't need platitudes and quick answers. In fact, it's often best not to say anything at all. The most important thing is to just be there. Sit. Listen. Hold a hand. Respond with brief expressions of understanding. When appropriate, offer assurance that God knows of the situation and cares.

After Jesus healed the paralytic,

Conference office, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301. Contributions will be used to support recovery efforts.

There will be continuing needs for clean-up VIM teams and rebuild VIM teams. On your behalf, United Methodist Disaster Response works with many agencies to deliver services to survivors and the impacted community throughout all stages of disaster response.

Your donation will be a blessing to those in need – what a wonderful opportunity to show compassion to those in your community and Conference!



## Guidance from Wesley

John Wesley (1703-1791) offered the following "Rules of Conduct" for Christians:

Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you  
can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you  
can,  
At all the times you  
can,  
To all the people you  
can,  
As long as ever you can.

the man stood up and returned home glorifying God (Luke 5:17-26). Likewise, Christ says to the brokenhearted today, "Stand up and go into your future, glorifying God with good works for his kingdom."



## Our Church Celebrations

### Groton Birthday's

Aug 1 Bert Raap  
 Aug 2 David Strom  
       Dylan Graf  
 Aug 3 Michelle Kramer  
 Aug 5 Gerald Rix  
 Aug 7 Kelli Hanson  
       Sherwin Nyberg  
 Aug 8 Yvonne Lange  
 Aug 9 Loel Schott  
 Aug 12 Amber Wolken  
       Haida boyd  
       Tom Lipp  
 Aug 13 Logan Nilsson  
 Aug 14 Doug Bahr  
 Aug 16 Harry Pharis Jr.  
       Jim Jones  
       Nathan Gellhaus  
       Ralph Breikreutz  
       Rose Tewksbury  
       Sam Furman  
 Aug 19 Amanda Seelye  
       Gert Ruden  
       Tia Marie Zoellner  
       William Zoellner  
 Aug 20 Marc Sippel  
 Aug 22 Virginia Breikreutz  
 Aug 29 Chuck Padfield

Aug 30 Emma Jo Schinkel  
       Nathan Atherton  
 Aug 31 Joy Walter  
       Katelyn Hawkins

### Groton Anniversaries

Aug 3 John & Lori Seelye  
       Lance & Kristie Hawkins  
 Aug 4 Craig & Kim Weber  
 Aug 8 Brad & Diann Morehouse  
 Aug 16 Alissa & Michael Wells  
 Aug 17 Bill & Wanda Zoellner  
 Aug 19 Sherwin & Chris Nyberg  
 Aug 28 Rob & Jeanne Wanous  
 Aug 31 Don & Joy Walter

### Conde Birthday's

Aug 10 Cindy Smith  
 Aug 12 Randy Kurtz  
       Cody Evans  
 Aug 13 Sonja Herman  
 Aug 16 Brandon Smith  
 Aug 23 Nicklos Menzia

Aug 26 Pam Hanson

Aug 31 Collin Ragels

### Conde Anniversaries

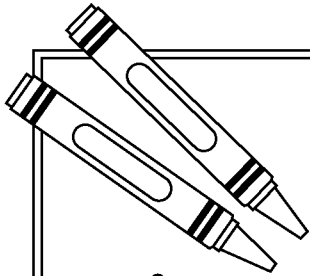
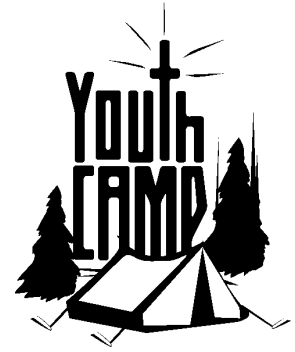
Aug 6 Loren & Pat Siefken  
 Aug 20 Richard & Jane Worlie  
 Aug 23 Jim & Mona Baldrige



“When one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated.”  
 —John Donne

If you have a college student who would enjoy receiving the newsletter, please let Kay know to put them on the mailing list. Or send the address to grotonumc@nvc.net. If they would enjoy receiving the church emails as well, please ask to be included on that as well with their address.. Thanks.





# Just for KIDS

## The Water of Life

To beat the summer heat, we're often refreshed by a cold drink. Complete the puzzle below for a reminder of what Jesus offers us when we thirst.

KEY:

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

“  
 $\overline{19+4}$   $\overline{10-2}$   $\overline{10+5}$   $\overline{10-5}$   $\overline{18+4}$   $\overline{1+4}$   $\overline{20-2}$   $\overline{8+1}$   $\overline{12+7}$   
 $\overline{18+2}$   $\overline{1+7}$   $\overline{10-1}$   $\overline{20-2}$   $\overline{18+1}$   $\overline{20-0}$   $\overline{26-1}$   $\overline{6+6}$   $\overline{5-0}$   $\overline{10+10}$   
 $\overline{4+4}$   $\overline{8+1}$   $\overline{8+5}$   $\overline{1+2}$   $\overline{10+5}$   $\overline{15-2}$   $\overline{1+4}$   $\overline{0+1}$   $\overline{7+7}$   $\overline{1+3}$   
 $\overline{26-3}$   $\overline{7+1}$   $\overline{20-5}$   $\overline{2+3}$   $\overline{21+1}$   $\overline{6-1}$   $\overline{19-1}$   
 $\overline{21+2}$   $\overline{9+0}$   $\overline{18+1}$   $\overline{10-2}$   $\overline{7-2}$   $\overline{15+4}$   $\overline{10+2}$   $\overline{7-2}$   $\overline{17+3}$   
 $\overline{6+2}$   $\overline{11-2}$   $\overline{11+2}$   $\overline{20+0}$   $\overline{2-1}$   $\overline{9+2}$   $\overline{8-3}$   $\overline{22-2}$   $\overline{11-3}$   $\overline{2+3}$   
 $\overline{3+3}$   $\overline{22-4}$   $\overline{5-0}$   $\overline{1+4}$   $\overline{3+4}$   $\overline{7+2}$   $\overline{9-3}$   $\overline{9+11}$   $\overline{14+1}$   $\overline{8-2}$   
 $\overline{23-3}$   $\overline{12-4}$   $\overline{8-3}$   $\overline{21+2}$   $\overline{4-3}$   $\overline{20-0}$   $\overline{10-5}$   $\overline{20-2}$   $\overline{13+2}$   $\overline{4+2}$   
 $\overline{5+7}$   $\overline{12-3}$   $\overline{9-3}$   $\overline{6-1}$ ”  
*Revelation 22:17, NIV*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for sending me to LTC (Leadership Training Camp) at Lake Poinsett. This is my second year going to this camp. As last year, I had a BLAST! We learned about the many different things that God wants from us. This year's theme was "community". I learned that there are many more communities than you would think. You, as a church, are my community. Family, school, and all of my extra curricular activities are also communities.

We also had all of the normal camp activities. There were campfires, folk dancing, tubing on the lake, a beach party & Silent Night. Silent Night was just that, silent. We went to worship and had communion like normal. But, then once we passed the bridge to go to the campfire we had to be silent until 7:30 the next morning. That is definitely one of the times I have felt the closest to God. It is such an awesome feeling!

Camp is such a wonderful thing! You definitely learn and grow faithfully every time you go! I would encourage all kids to go to camp. I know that I will go to camp until I am too old. After that, I will also want to go back as a counselor. Thank you again for this awesome experience!

Love always & God Bless  
Alexa Nilsson

Answer:  
 "Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." Revelation 22:17, NIV



PASTOR  
ROB'S  
ROUNDUP AT  
THE GROTON  
UMC



### The garden of the soul

There is a Garden of the Soul,  
Where God plants loving seeds

That faith and grace will nourish  
Into blooms of loving deeds.

Within this Garden of the Soul  
Fruits of the Spirit grow;  
And they produce new seeds of  
love

Which you and I can sow.

—Peggy Ferrell,  
Prayers and Poems





KIDS GAMES AT  
THE GROTON  
PASTOR ROB  
ROUNDUP



## Work to do

God hath work to do in this world; and to desert it because of its difficulties and entanglements, is to cast off his authority. It is not enough that we be just, that we be righteous, and walk with God in holiness; but we must also serve our generation, as David did before he fell asleep. God hath a work to do; and not to help him is to oppose him.

— John Owen

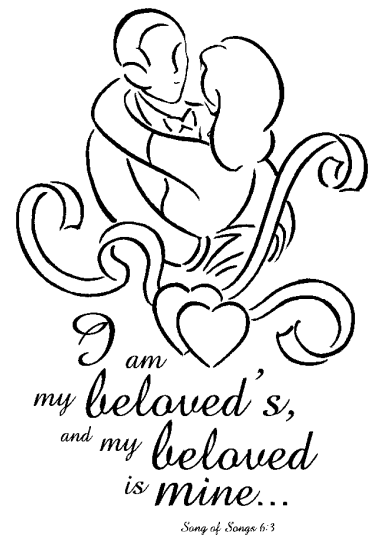
## The power of appreciation

Motivational speaker and author Dale Carnegie once told of a woman who worked with some church friends on a self-improvement program. After one meeting, she went home and asked her husband how she could be a better person, particularly as a wife.

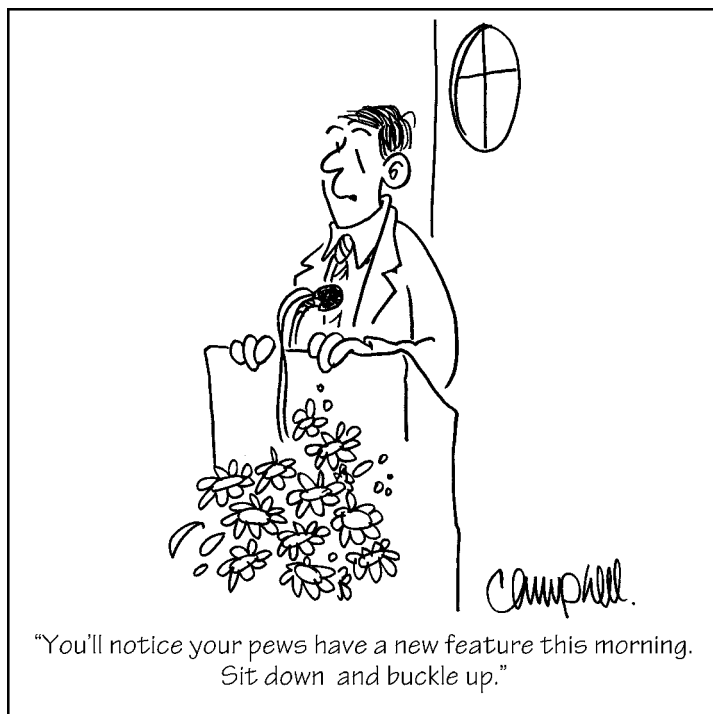
The husband told her he'd think about it and provide an answer the next day. While pondering his wife's request, the man realized he could

offer a few suggestions. But he also could think of a thousand self-improvement ideas for himself.

The next morning, the man ordered some roses. He had them sent to his wife with an uplifting note that read, "I love you just the way you are." After that, the couple's personal shortcomings seemed quite small in the face of their steadfast love for one another.







### Groton Stewardship Report for July 2008

Average Wkly Giving \$1,260  
 Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs \$1,733  
 Average Weekly Attendance 66  
 Total Building Fund Offerings \$90

### "Healthy" spirituality

While studying elderly people and their immune systems, Duke University scientists discovered that senior adults who attend worship regularly have healthier immune systems than those who don't attend regularly.

And at the University of California, Los Angeles, a study showed that college students who participate in religious activities have better emotional and mental health than those with no religious involvement. A high degree of spirituality correlated with high self-esteem.

Participating in worship and other church activities appears to boost not only your spiritual health but also your physical and mental health. Make a commitment to stay involved – even in the busy summer months.

### GROTON MISSION STATEMENT

"ENRICHING SPIRITUAL LIVES  
 THROUGH CHRIST."

## Groton Family Committee - September

**Brian & Andrea Bahr**

**Alan & Jolene Townsend**

**Joy & Don Walter**

**Bob & MaryAnn Wehde**

Connie & Dave Nilsson, Alexa

Logan Nilsson

Pam & Doug Bahr

Anita & John Lowary

Linda & Gary Thurston

Zachary Townsend

Bert Raap

Dion Bahr

William & Wanda Zoellner

Dick Oliver

Audry & Clint Jacobson

Brent & Christie Swenson, Amanda

### Honorary Members

- Doris Strom

### September Extra Responsibilities

- Take Care of Lawn as necessary
- Clean North Storage Room and 1st NE Sunday School Room and the Hallway
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Rally Sunday - Optional)
- Sept 7th change altar cloths to white and hang the Communion Banners for this Sunday Only
- Sept 14th change to the green altar cloths and hang the banners for the month.



## *Our Church Happenings*

GROTON/CONDE PARISHES

August 2008						
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						

- Aug 10 The Deathly Hallows (Christianity looks at death) (sermon)
- Aug 13 Groton Ad Council 7 PM
- Aug 17 How to Have a Happy Afterlife Part I (sermon)
- Aug 20 Groton UMW 7:30 pm - meeting only.  
Groton UMW Chairman & Officers meet at 6:30 pm.
- Aug 20 Conde UMW meets at the Rotell Living Center in Clark 2 PM
- Aug 20 Conde Ad council 8 PM
- Aug 24 How to Have a Happy Afterlife Part II (sermon)
- Aug 31 Old Fashioned Hymn - Sing (You pickem', We singem')
- Sept 27 Ingathering in Mitchell

