



United Methodist Messenger



Pastor Rob's Ponderings

Driving from Howard to Groton and Conde, I was wondering what the "old-time" United Methodist clergy once felt like when they moved from church to church. A retired clergy once told me, "You never knew what the bishop was going to do as we sat in the church pews with our wives peering down from the balcony."

Times have changed since the days of the bishop announcing appointment changes with neither the church knowing who their pastor will be nor the clergy knowing the place of their next church. Someone once asked Garrison Keillor of "Prairie Home Companion" fame if he would like to live back in the "good old days." His replied shocked a few people when he said, "Why would anyone want to live without modern conveniences such as indoor plumbing or air conditioning?"

As much as I enjoy reading about and learning from history, I'm with Garrison on the "good old days"! In my mind, today are the "good days." Yes, I miss my friends in Howard and I know there are those who miss Pastor Jan here in Groton and Conde, but God has a great way of working in days like today!

In the past few days I have received emails and had telephone calls with great people I am looking forward to meeting. In the past few

days I have met with various people from Groton and Conde bringing me a gift (Who doesn't like gifts???) and stopping by to visit. In the past few days I have been introduced to kind, generous people who I am looking forward too taking up the challenge of remembering their names. And in the past few days I have been doing all of these things with the comfort of air conditioning.

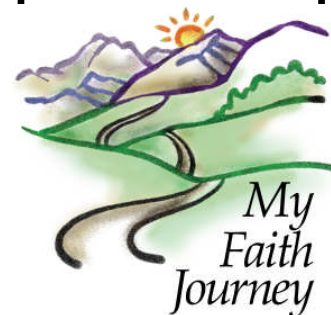
In completing my mother's genealogy last year, I discovered one of my relatives was one of the first American-born circuit riders serving under the leadership of Bishop Francis Asbury in the Methodist Church. My ancestor served on horseback going wherever Asbury sent him even bringing Methodism to the "frontier" of the Ohio Territory. Although I am immensely proud to call him my ancestor, I am prouder of the fact of the faith in Jesus Christ passed down through the generations. I could not feel more humble about serving the Groton and Conde Churches and being able to pass on the Great News about Jesus Christ!

My hope and prayer for "today" is that we (both you and I) remember and learn from the past as well from all the pastors that have crossed our way and move forward by faith into what Jesus Christ has for us.

See you in worship, Pastor Rob

"The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith. The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service. The fruit of service is peace."

—Mother Teresa



"Freedom fails when people decide that it is their right to take and not to give."

—Stanley Maxwell

Groton Church Roundup for Pastor Rob

July 9th

Roundup for Pastor Rob

From 5:30-7pm

Catered meal with pork loin, hotdogs, salads, ice cream cones, etc... Plain old fellowship and fun! There will be games for the kids (big and small).

Conde Potluck Welcome for Pastor Rob

July 16th at 6:30

Plates, Silverware, etc... furnished

Followed by Ad Council

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



**Sympathies to the
family of
Ivy Nogle who
passed away
June 23rd**



Thank you to Bob Wehde, Tyke Nyberg, John Lowary, Don Walter, Marjorie Overacker, and Cody Hanson for helping me clean up the office and get it ready for Pastor Rob! Kay Brandt



*Currently 72 on email prayer chain.

Groton Cub Scouts Report

Rain that swept through the area on Wednesday evening, June 4th, didn't keep these Cub Scouts from having fun! The Wolf/Bear Den from Groton Cub Scout Pack 264 got a little



drenched maneuvering the safety cones in the parking lot of their sponsor, the Groton United Methodist Church. When the rain got a little intense, they retreated inside to go over safety rules and learn the parts of the bicycle. The rain seemed to let up so the Scouts enjoyed a mile ride around town only to have it downpour halfway through! Outdoor Coordinator Clint Fjelstad led the bike ride with Wolf Hayden

Pigors and Bears Nathan Fjelstad, Dillon Freeman, Joe Groeblichhoff, Alex Kern, Nicklos Menzia and Den Leader Vicki Pigors. Dillon brought treats which were a welcome sight after the wet ride! The Cub Scouts and Den Leaders appreciate the opportunity to have the use of the Church's facilities for our meetings and events. Thank you very much!



Freedom

Each one of us is born most free
And we alone can choose
To do what God would have us do,
To use what God would use.

Or, we are also free to seek
The proud and selfish way –
A life where other gods come first
To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,
We find that freedom's place
Is really in God's Will
for us,
And we have chosen
GRACE!

–Peggy Ferrell,
Prayers and Poems



Enjoy your freedom

Because many Americans have never known other circumstances, it's easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites knew firsthand the oppression of slavery. Yet when God finally led them out of Egypt, they had problems adjusting to their newfound freedom. Fearful and rebellious, the Israelites grumbled against their leaders, Moses and Aaron, saying they would've been better off as slaves in Egypt.

Our freedom as Christians cost Jesus his life. But we, too, often find it easier to fall back into sinful habits. In Galatians 5:1, Paul offers this encouragement: "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (NRSV).

We're no longer bound by sin and death. That "independence" is worth celebrating every day!

Groton UMW Update

No UMW Meeting in July.

Let's keep our "Giving Our Hearts" theme alive in July by "Welcoming our Pastor" with a phone call, a visit, homemade goodies, or maybe an invitation to your home to share a meal with you and your family,

Please plan on attending the "Round Up for

Rob" on July 9th.

Our next UMW meeting will be August 20th at 7:30 p.m. with an Executive Meeting for chairmen and officers at 6:30 p.m. Clare Brotherton & Audrey Thurston are hostesses. There will be no program just lots of planning! Come and be a part!

**Conde UMW
NOT Meeting In July**

New Address
Pastor Jan Price
PO Box 396
Wessington Springs, SD 57382

A true friend

According to an Arabian proverb, "A friend is one to whom one may pour out all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away."

That's why it's so important to have Christian friends. We can share the good and bad, confident that our friends won't judge us as a result. Instead, true friends celebrate our successes and encourage us during disappointments.

As the Bible says, "A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17, NRSV).



*"I am the
resurrection
and the
life."*

JOHN 11:25

How would you feel ...

- If God gave us the same amount of time and attention that we devote to him?
- If God put as many things ahead of us as we put ahead of him?
- If God offered as many excuses as we do and if the excuses were not more justifiable than ours?
- If God's promises were no more certain than ours?
- If God withheld his blessings from us as we withhold our offerings to him?

Our Church Celebrations

Groton Birthday's

July 4 Seth Erickson
July 5 Cassandra Olson
Jasmine Schinkel
July 7 Ida Hannon
July 8 David Tewksbury
Kelby Hawkins
July 9 Jocelyn Peterson
Jordan Voss
July 12 Ashtyn Bahr
July 13 Jeff Voss
Jolene Townsend
July 14 Ava Kramer
Christine Nyberg
July 16 Linda Thurston
Richard Voss
July 18 Katilin O'Neil
Kevin Pray
July 19 Carol Strom
July 22 Jean Lowary

Gabrielle Furman
July 23 Joyce Walter
July 24 Christi Swenson
Maggie Oliver
July 25 Jessica Pasteur
July 26 Lucius Geffre
July 27 Ryland Strom
Tony Madsen
July 28 Craig Weber
July 29 Curtis Krueger
July 31 Amanda Swenson
Lynette Furman

Groton Anniversaries

July 5 Allen & Joyce Walter
July 10 Pernell & Noella Graf
July 11 Roger & Marj Overacker
July 12 Brent & Christi Swenson
July 18 Josh & Merrie Atherton
July 24 Roger & Pam Rix
July 28 Bob & Carolyn Snyder

Conde Birthday's

July 1 Arvon Taylor
July 6 Shanna Geist
July 10 Ann Menzia
July 14 Krystal Hanlon
July 23 Patty Knoll
July 30 Judy Zeck

Conde Anniversaries

July 3 Guy & Renee Hanlon
Norb & Donna Hearnen
July 27 Horace & Donna Walter



What attracts People to Church?

Why do people select a particular church? A convenient location? Yes. A good speaker in the pulpit? Yes. Inspiring music? Yes. An attractive building? Yes.

But a more essential element in attracting visitors, newcomers and prospective members is friendliness – both in the pew and throughout the community. Where there is a warm, dynamic congregation with an enthusiasm that's contagious, visitors will usually be found, and will return.



A church can buy many advantages with money, such as nice buildings, trained leadership, effective advertising and an abundance of supplies for spiritual and social use. But old-fashioned friendliness, of which the world is sorely in need, can't be purchased with money. It comes only from the hearts of dedicated people who love God and enjoy helping others feel at home in their church.

Conde Youth Group News

The Conde Youth Group served breakfast at the Conde Church on Saturday, June 27, as their part in the All School Reunion that weekend. Cheri Kurtz is leader and all pictured were involved in preparing, serving and cleaning for the morning. They were pleased with the results of their work, and all those who ate breakfast with them were very satisfied.



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

Groton VBS Thank You

We had a successful and fun week of VBS. Over 30 children attended throughout the week. A special thank you to all who helped with VBS or who contributed items or money. All was greatly appreciated.

Melissa Gilbert - VBS Chairperson
Jolene Townsend - Skit Coordinator
Meri Erickson - Kitchen Coordinator
Melissa Gilbert & Sydney Erickson - Craft Coordinators
Dale Kramer - Music Coordinator

Others who helped throughout the week:
Marjae Schinkel, Kelli Hanson, Mendy Jones, Kami Lipp, Jesse Overacker, Evan Erickson, Seth Erickson, Amanda Sperry, Andrew Kappes, Josh Atherton, Merry Atherton, Susan Odland,

Sam Furman, Sydney Erickson, Kim Weber, Pam Bahr, Kay Brandt, Crystal Sippel, Doug Sippel, Cody Hanson, and Pastor Jan.

Also thank you to those who contributed money, food items or decorations for VBS: Kim Weber, Jolene Townsend, Meri Erickson, Melissa Gilbert, Marjae Schinkel, Pat Dahlquist, Marge Overacker, Gloria Pharis, Carol Strom, Ann & Jerry Rix, UMW, Kami Lipp, Kelli Hanson, Dave & Connie Nilsson, Clare Brotherton, JoAnn Krueger, Dale Kramer, Carol Knecht, and Mary Swisher.

Sorry if we missed your name but all donations and help were very appreciated. Thank you!

The Great September Get Away

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, Pat McGill, one of the country's foremost motivational speakers will be speaking at Fort Sisseton State Park on moving and motivating your community. The program is entitled, "Keep it Real, Keep it Rural... be Ready, Reachable and Remarkable". Pat says 'Change is inevitable, progress is optional. Find out how to motivate the changes we want. If we don't, someone else will make those changes for us whether they are the choice we would make or not.'

Registration is at 9 AM. Program concludes at 5 PM. \$39/participant. For complete details go to www.thegreatseptembergetaway.com or call Lynn Oland at 605-448-2438



Program is sponsored by BDM Water Systems Inc., Ottertail Power Company, Glacial Lakes Area Development, Venture Communications, Fort Sisseton State Historical Park, and Northern Lights Inn.



Groton June Ad Council Meeting Notes

- Gerald Rix and Tyke Nyberg from the Trustees Committee discussed minor work that needs to be done at the parsonage prior to Pastor Rob moving in.
- Chairman Richard Krueger commended Kay Brandt for the work she has been doing to prepare a photo album of church memorials.
- Pastor Jan spoke about the recent Annual Conference. She said that there was discussion about moving this annual meeting to a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday instead of during the week to make it easier for more people to attend. She also said that churches are to review their current liability insurance policies and extent of coverage to make sure any losses could be covered. She explained that if churches can't cover losses, then the must be covered by the conference.
- Several thank you notes were shared from recent high school graduates.
- Plans for both Pastor Jan's farewell potluck and Pastor Rob's welcome gathering were discussed and finalized.

Groton Mission Statement
"Enriching Spiritual lives
through Christ."

Groton Stewardship Report for June 2008

Average Wkly Giving \$957
Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs \$1,733
Average Weekly Attendance 46
Total Building Fund Offerings \$95

Groton August Family Committee

Marlys Rodman

Rose Tewksbury

Bob & Carolyn Snyder

Kami & Tom Lipp

Karla Pasteur, Ali

Yvonne Lange

Carna & Cliff Pray, Kevin

Lance & Kristi Hawkins, Katelyn

Dale & Michelle Kramer

Pam & Roger Rix

Doris Zoellner

Gayleen & Jon Voss, Jordan,

Lacey

Honorary Members

- ImoJeanne Oliver
- Mary Swisher
- Richard Zoellner
- Art & Charlotte Lange

Extra Responsibilities

- Mow the lawn as necessary
- Aug 3 change altar cloths to white and hang Communion Banners for this Sunday only
- Aug 10 change altar cloths to green and hang monthly banners
- Clean the three NW Rooms (UMYF & 2 Sunday School)
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Optional)



**Groton/Conde
Parishes**

July 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		



Our church Happenings

July 9 Groton Roundup for Pastor Rob from 5:30-7 pm with a catered meal and much more fun!

July 16 Conde Welcome Potluck for Pastor Rob at 6:30. Plates, silverware, etc furnished. Everyone come!

July 16 Conde Ad Council following the Welcome Celebration

Aug 20 Groton UMW 7:30 pm - meeting only
Chairman & Officers meet at 6:30

NO July Ad Council Meeting in Groton!