



# United Methodist Messenger

DECEMBER 2009

GROTON/CONDE

## An Ode to Christmas Lights

Bursting through  
December nights  
That could be long  
and cold,  
Our Christmas lights  
bring warmth and  
joy  
With colors soft or  
bold.  
Cascading from the  
rooftops,  
And from trees both  
small and tall,  
The lights cry out,  
“We have good  
news!”  
We want to shout  
to all.  
“You’ve seen the  
darkness earth can  
hold,  
The sorrow, war  
and fear;  
But God has sent  
his Son for all,  
To show his Love is  
here.  
“The darkness can’t  
put out God’s Light.  
Christ’s with us day  
by day,  
Illuminating paths  
so we  
Can follow in his  
way.”  
Light homes and  
streets and candles.  
Make your world  
shine clear and  
bright.  
God’s love sur-  
rounds and blesses  
us.  
Come, celebrate  
God’s Light!

—Peggy Ferrell

## Sad Songs

I just returned from Thanksgiving Dinner. It was fabulous! It was the kind of dinner on this special day which I really enjoy – just the basics. I had turkey, mashed potatoes, corn, stuffing (or dressing) and pumpkin pie. Nothing was glazed, fried or marinated in some special sauce. We had nothing which hinted at the idea of the cook doing something or adding something you would only see on one of those fancy cooking shows. It was the basic, great dinner with good conversation.

The sad part of the day was returning home to listen to the first song which popped up on my I-Pod entitled, “Sorry Seems to be the Saddest Word” followed by “Waiting on an Angel” followed by “Done Too Soon.” I enjoy each of the artists who sing these songs, but it did make me look at the rest of the songs on my I-Pod. I could not believe the number of songs with a sad or depressing story. I realize song writers will write songs which reflect a moment in their lives, but I did not realize how fast songs like those can bring a Thanksgiving Day to a screeching halt.

This past Tuesday I saw the movie, “Blindside,” which tells the inspirational story of a poor black youth being taken in by an affluent white Memphis family. In case you have not seen it, I do not want to give anything else away other than the fact the movie is

inspirational  
and motiva-  
tional. I

was feeling  
good for two days after I saw the  
movie. I even listened to sad songs on  
my I-Pod during those two days and  
did not even notice they were sad  
songs.

God can speak in many and various  
ways. Sometimes God uses good con-  
versation with friends around a dinner;  
sometimes God will use a good movie;  
sometimes God uses friends watching  
a football game together on Monday  
night; and sometimes God uses sad  
songs to touch our hearts and minds.

God created each of us with a great  
capacity for feeling and emotion.  
There will be many different feelings  
and emotions as I get ready to move to  
Louisville at the end of December. As  
Christians, our task is to use even the  
sad songs and the sad emotions to get  
us to hear God’s message for us. I  
hope you are listening.

See you in church!

Pastor Rob



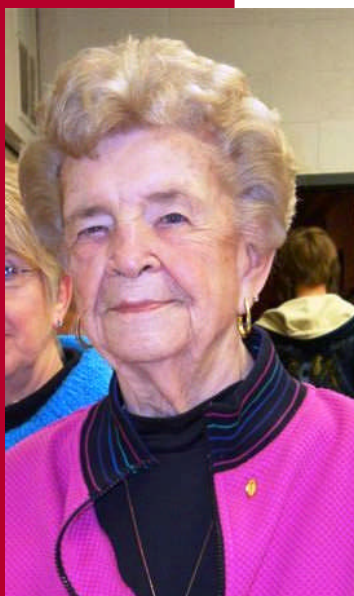
# Congratulations



Delaney Craig was born November 17th to Merrie and Joshua Ather-ton. He weighed 9 lbs, 2 oz. and was 21 inches long.



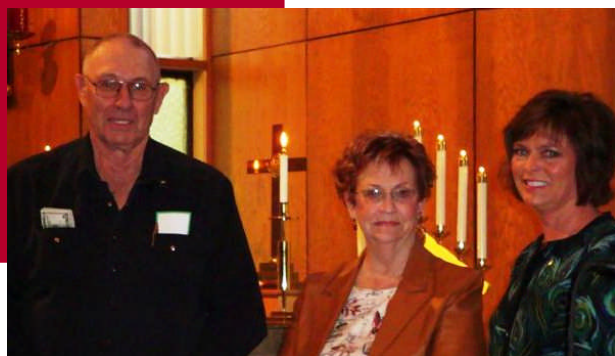
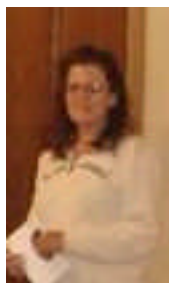
## UMW Recognition Awards



On November 8th UMW presented the Jewel of a Woman Award to Gert Ruden. Other recognition awards were presented to Luverne Strom, JoAnn Krueger, Connie Nilsson, and Vicki Strom.



Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Audrey Thurston	397-8493
Gert Ruden	397-8211
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Mary Swisher	397-8337
Gloria Pharis	397-2375
Doris Zoellner	397-2417
Marjorie Townsend	298-5221
Darlys Kampa	395-6996
DeLoris Knoll	397-2681
Marvel Johnson	397-2425
Mary Ann Whede	397-8330



\*Currently 81 on email prayer chain.  
If you are not on this list or the email list,  
please notify the church office.

## Tuesday AM Bible Study

Dec 8th we will be leading Bingo at the Golden Living Center at 10 am for our meeting. Bring Quarters or Dollars for this big Christmas Event!

Jan 12 we will be starting a new study on "Prayer - An Adventure with God" for 12 weeks. If you would like to join and need a book, Kay has them.

Then around Easter we will be starting a study on the book "The Shack."

If there is a small group of 6 or more that would like to start a new study group at another time, please talk to Kay.



### Blood Drive at Groton Legion Clubroom

December 8th  
From Noon - 6 pm  
Call 397-8102 for appointment

## Our Church Celebrations

### Groton

Dec 1 Charles Strom  
Dec 2 Meri Erickson  
Dec 3 Anthony Sippel  
Dec 4 Darlys Kampa  
Dec 6 Mary Swisher  
Dec 7 Caroline Zeeb  
Morgan McNickle  
Dec 9 Ann Rix  
Brooklyn Gilbert  
Dec 11 Dave & Connie Nilsson  
Dec 13 Melissa Gilbert  
Dec 14 Bob & Mary Ann Wehde  
Dec 15 Marjae Schinkel  
Dec 16 Dan Schinkel  
Dec 17 Alan Townsend  
Dec 18 Dylan Hanson  
Jasper Pray  
Michaela Oleson  
Dec 20 Lon & Marva Gellhaus

Dec 21 Kent Webb  
Mackenzie Lutz  
Noella Graf  
Dec 23 Casey Seelye  
John Padfield  
Marc & Fran Sippel  
Dec 25 Steve O'Neill  
Dec 26 Ben Peterson  
Dec 27 Emily Overacker  
Jane Johnson  
Karla Pasteur  
Nathan & Katie Zeeb  
Dec 28 Jaden Dobbins  
Dec 29 Andrea Davidson  
Dec 30 Alec Oleson  
Alex Graf  
Dec 31 Ralph & Virginia Breitkreutz



### Conde

Dec 1 Joyce Haskell  
Dec 4 Greg & Stacey Bonn  
Dec 8 Tony Bruckner  
Millie Buising  
Dec 10 Skylar Bonn  
Dec 10 James Zeck  
Dec 20 Rex Taylor  
Dec 27 Richard & Dorothy Sanderson



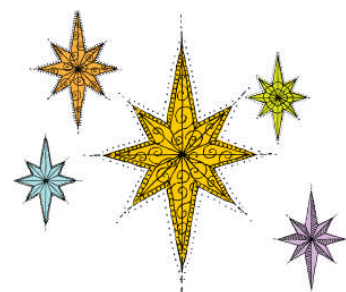




Thanks everyone  
for helping with  
the Men's Dinner,  
it couldn't be done  
without everyone  
working  
together. Special  
thanks to Chuck,  
John, and the  
youth group.  
Thanks again,  
Brad & Diann  
Marc & Jane  
JoAnn & Richard



## Men's Dinner - November



## Conde Nov UMW Meeting

Donna Hearnen presented the lesson on World Thank Offering by displaying maps of the world, showing the many mission projects that are funded through the Women's Division, and thus through World and National Divisions. The Response magazine and Prayer Calendar were used to tell of the many projects.

The Mission Committee, under the leadership of Donna Hearnen had assembled Shoebox Christmas gifts to be sent to the Indian Reservations in South Dakota.

The December meeting will begin at 11:00 AM on December 2 at the church with

the Christmas lesson, followed by noon lunch and the business meeting.

All are invited to attend as a guest for this special meeting. Please call Donna Hearnen if you are interested.



### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

## Layette Kits Conde Poinsettias Conde

Layette Kits are being collected in December. You may donate cash or the following items. 6 cloth diapers, 2 baby washcloths, 2 diaper pins, 1 sweater open in the front (can go up to 12 month size) and/or 2 receiving blankets. Many women do not have even swaddling clothes with which to welcome their child into the world.

Poinsettias may be purchased for those who would like to honor or remember a family member. Please see Donna Walter if you would like to do so - either a contribution or a plant are a wonderful thought.

***Conde Habitat for Humanity Birthday Donation is voluntary during the month of your Birthday. House is available at the church for Donations.***

## Basic & Advanced Lay Speaking Course

January 29-30, 2010 at the Miller UMC. Rev. Mary An Sheldon will be leading the Basic Course. Pastor Paul Smith will lead the Advanced Course, "From Your Heart to Theirs - Delivering an Effective Sermon" (this qualifies as a Preaching Class). Classes will begin at 6:30 PM on Friday, Jan 29th. Please eat supper before coming on Friday but lunch and snacks will be provided

on Saturday. Approximate ending time on Saturday will be at 4:00 pm.

Registration Fee is \$35/person (make checks payable to Dakotas Conference). Register by January 15th to Bonnie Carlson, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301. 605-996-6552



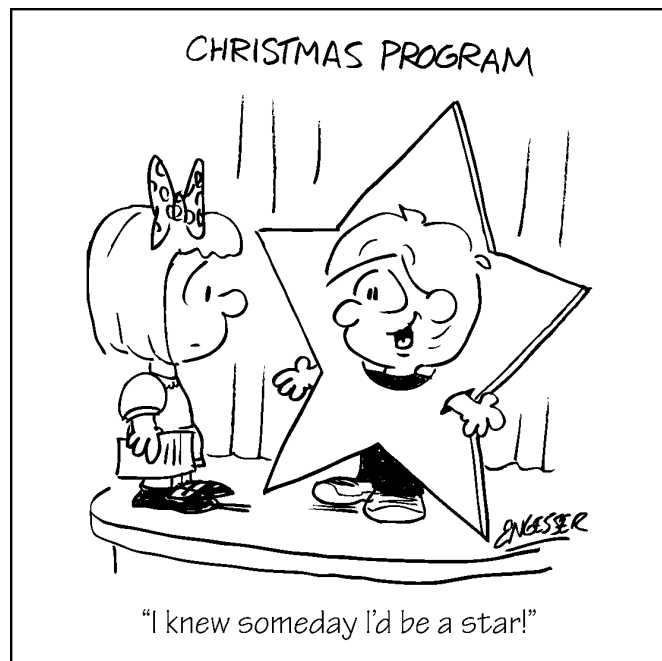
**Lay Speaker**



## Groton UMW Dec Events

Dec 9 the Christmas Luncheon will be at Bully's Steak House, Ramada, in Aberdeen at 11:15 am. Carpool will be leaving from the church at 10:45 am. Please let Jolene know if you will be attending.

Dec 13 we will be packing Christmas Goodies for our Special Friends during coffee hour for delivery after church. Please join in and bring individually wrapped goodies for this UMW Mission Project.



## Groton Nov UMW Meeting

- The Groton unit of United Methodist Women met November 19th at 2:00 p.m. with 18 members present. The Advent program, entitled "Advent-Together at the Table", was presented by the officers, Clare Brotherton, Twila Ruden, Jolene Townsend, and Gloria Pharis

- President Jolene Townsend opened the business meeting and the PURPOSE was recited by the group. The treasurer presented the proposed budget for 2010, which was accepted.


- The nominating committee presented the proposed slate of officers who were elected. Officers are Gloria Pharis, president; Twila Ruden, vice-president; JoAnn Krueger, secretary; and Clare Brotherton, treasurer. Committees include Spiritual Growth, Doris Zoellner, Carol Strom and Marje Overacker; Social Action, Jolene Townsend; Secretary of Program Resources, Sharon Wheeting and Yvonne Lange; Membership and Nurture Outreach, Marj

Townsend, Pat Dahlquist, and Kelli Hanson; Education and Interpretation, Marlys Rodman, Susan Odland, and Carolyn Snyder; and Nominations, Jane Johnson, Chris Nyberg and Meri Erickson



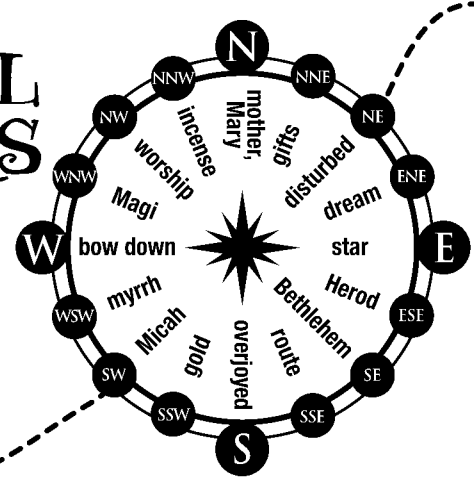
- The local mission projects for 2009 are Groton Transit, Groton Rescue Squad, Groton Elementary Literacy Program; Campus Crusade for Christ; Skating Rink/Soccer Ass'n., Senior Nutrition Program, and Salvation Army.

- The December meeting and Christmas luncheon will be at 11:15 a.m. at Bully's at the Ramada Inn in Aberdeen, December 9th. The goody boxes will be packed at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 13th, with delivery following the worship service.
- Lunch was served by JoAnn Krueger and Carolee Heitmann.



# SPECIAL VISITORS

Matthew 2 tells of visitors who traveled to worship Jesus. Read that story, or see if you can answer the questions below from memory. Use the compass guide to fill in the correct answers.



- Who was king during the time of Jesus' birth? \_\_\_\_\_ (ESE)
- Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_ (WNW)
- How was King Herod feeling about Jesus' birth? \_\_\_\_\_ (NE)
- Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? \_\_\_\_\_ (SW)
- In what city would Christ be born? \_\_\_\_\_ (SE)
- King Herod lied to the wise men and told them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? \_\_\_\_\_ (NW)
- What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_ (E)
- When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? \_\_\_\_\_ (S)
- Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His \_\_\_\_\_ (N)
- What did the Magi do first before they worshiped the child? \_\_\_\_\_ (W)
- Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_ (SSW)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (NNW) \_\_\_\_\_ (WSW)
- These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as ... \_\_\_\_\_ (NNE)
- What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A \_\_\_\_\_ (ENE)
- The Magi had to return to their country by another \_\_\_\_\_ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrrh, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route

## Groton Sunday School

December:

6<sup>th</sup> SS

13<sup>th</sup> SS

20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Program

During Church Service

27<sup>th</sup> No SS

January:

3<sup>rd</sup> No SS

10<sup>th</sup> SS Resumes

Schedule:

10:00-10:15am Cookies

10:15-10:50am Lesson in classroom

10:50-11:15am Music

11:15-12:00pm Church Services

\*\*\*We take a weekly offering in Music. This offering will be designated to a special project chosen by the children. We will be deciding on the project Rally Sunday. We do try to keep



Discovery Toys Day at Groton UMC by Kim Weber. The nursery will get the hostess benefits from the sales. There will be books in the dining room before the sale to look at. Items will arrive before Christmas.

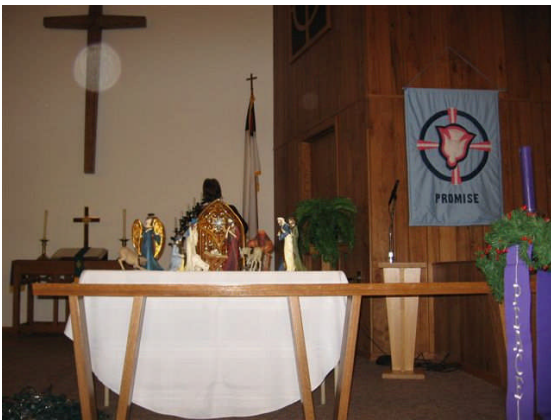
## UMYF December Events

Dec 16 UMYF in fellowship hall and sanctuary at 7 pm

Dec 20 UMYF will be helping serve Potluck

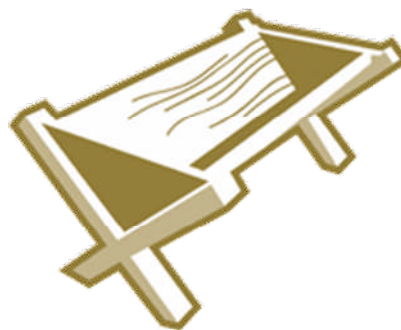


# Conde Pre-Advent Gathering



## Advent anticipation

In early church history, Advent began as a time of repentance. It served as preparation for Epiphany, which was the second most popular day for baptisms (after Pentecost). Common traditions during the Advent season, including wreaths and candles, add to the anticipation of Jesus' birth. Another tradition is to leave the manger empty when you set up your nativity scene. Then, during Christmas morning celebrations, you can place the newborn baby Jesus in his "bed."



## Family photo

An 8-year-old girl was showing her 4-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, "But where's Joseph?"

The older sister thought for a moment and replied, "He's taking the picture."



# Dakotas Annual Conference Special Session

Dakotas Annual Conference met in Special Session at First United Methodist Church in Aberdeen to make final approval for the Conference to adjust to the conditions of Romans 12. "I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, which is your spiritual worship." which is the beginning of a new life in Christ.

Committees were set in place to begin the transformation to the new Links which will connect the new Conference structure.

These plans are to be finalized at this coming regular session of Annual Conference

in June.

If you are interested in serving on a Link, new Committee on Nominations chair Rev. Penny Eberhardt will be willing to hear from you to consider your wishes. More information may be learned by talking to your pastor or Conference Lay Member.



*The Miracle of Christmas*

## Groton Mission Statement

*"Enriching Spiritual lives  
through Christ."*

## Groton Stewardship Report Nov 2009

Average Wkly Giving  
\$1,732

Needed Wkly for  
Church Mission  
\$2,141

Average Weekly  
Attendance  
79

Total Building Fund  
Donations  
\$40

## Groton January 2010 Family Committee

**Connie & Dave Nilsson, Alexa**    [dcnilsson@nrctv.com](mailto:dcnilsson@nrctv.com)    229-5014  
**John & Meri Erickson, Sydney**    [meri.erickson@k12.sd.us](mailto:meri.erickson@k12.sd.us)    395-6674

**Brent & Christie Swenson**    [christiswenson@yahoo.com](mailto:christiswenson@yahoo.com)    397-4549  
**Lee Swenson**

**Anita & John Lowary**    [lowary@grotonsd.net](mailto:lowary@grotonsd.net)    397-2495

**Brian & Andrea Bahr**    [funeralhome@nvc.net](mailto:funeralhome@nvc.net)    397-4589

**Logan Nilsson**    216-0235

**Pam & Doug Bahr**    397-8251

**Bert & Janice Raap**    [jjamdahl@nvc.net](mailto:jjamdahl@nvc.net)    397-4408

**Dion Bahr**    [dionbahr@yahoo.com](mailto:dionbahr@yahoo.com)    397-4434

**William & Wanda Zoellner**    397-8395

**Steve & Becky Diegel**    [sbdiegel@nvc.net](mailto:sbdiegel@nvc.net)    397-8551

**Kim & Craig Weber (Jan & Nov)**    [kimweber59@yahoo.com](mailto:kimweber59@yahoo.com)    397-8675

**Jay & Linda Johnson (Jan & Nov)**    [ljohnson@sdwg.com](mailto:ljohnson@sdwg.com)    397-8565

[johnsonagency@hotmail.com](mailto:johnsonagency@hotmail.com)

### Honorary Members

Doris Strom    397-8367

Robert Hood    397-2359

Emery Sippel    397-8614

Clarence & Ida Hannon    298-5665

January 2010						
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

December 2009						
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		

Dec 6 Discovery Toys Day in Groton.

Dec 8 Groton Tues AM Bible Study - Bingo at Golden Living Center 10 am

Dec 8 Blood Drive from noon - 6 pm Groton Legion

Dec 9 Groton UMW Christmas Luncheon at Bully's in Aberdeen 11:15 am

Dec 13 Groton UMW organizing Christmas Goodies for Special Friends

Dec 16 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

Dec 16 Groton UMYF in fellowship hall and sanctuary 7 pm

**Dec 20 Groton Sunday School Christmas Program during Church**

Dec 20 Groton Potluck Sunday - UMYF will help serve

Dec 21 Groton Cub Scout Pack Meeting 6:30 pm

**Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service - Conde 5 PM and  
Groton 7 PM**