

United Methodist Messenger

www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc

The Future is Today

An article appeared this past week in "ESPN-The Magazine" which theorized there is no way to accurately compare baseball statistics of players from the start of baseball in the late 1800's to today. Among the reasons given were the playing conditions, types of equipment, racial attitudes, and the general condition of ball players. Times were different and we simply cannot compare what happened yesterday with today.

This past week I sat in three baseball stadiums - Frontier Field in Rochester, New York; Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, New York and Busch Stadium in St. Louis. All three were remarkably similar in the size of the playing field, distances between bases and height of the pitcher's mound. All three were also similar in how close spectators could sit to the field. However, there were some remarkable differences. Frontier Field is home to a AAA baseball team composed of players not quite ready for the "big time." In between innings the team hosted "fun activities" for the fans to keep them interested in the game. There was a baseball game but it lacked the "perfection" of the major leagues. I sat in the old wooden stands of Doubleday Field where legend has it Abner Doubleday invented baseball. There was no game that day but sitting alone in the stands was like listening to ghosts of

baseball legends. "Perfection" came in watching the grounds keeper prepare for a future game by raking the area around home plate. Sitting in my seat in Busch Stadium was like sitting in an oven watching my favorite team lose to the St. Louis Cardinals. The sun beat down; humidity was high; neither team played well. The only "perfection" I could think about was, "How perfect this would be if it were a night game."

The new slogan being used by many United Methodists is "Re-Think Church." The slogan is all about considering the time, purpose, techniques, and traditions we have developed over the past generations in "how we do church." In other words, how can we reach the people of today in the society and culture in which we live? At the Groton United Methodist Church on Sunday, June 28th there were 54 people for a church service which averages 95-105 during the Fall and Winter. I think the question of "how do we do church" is a valid one considering the June 28th service is typical for the Summer.

Of course, there are those who maintain we must stay in Doubleday Field with its traditions. There are those who like Frontier Field with the entertainment value, and there are those with a Busch Stadium perspective of enjoying the fantastic technology and great looking stadium, but can we

**Groton/Conde
Parishes**

July 2009

do this at another time? Where do you fit? Where is "perfection" for you? Over the next few months we'll take a look at what we are doing and how we do it in this parish. I invite your opinions.

See you in Church!
Pastor Rob



Church Picnic



YOU'ALL COME - to the Annual Groton UMC Family Picnic on Wednesday, August 5th! A catered meal will be served at the church 5:30 to 7:30 pm. We will be celebrating the one-year anniversary of Pastor Rob's arrival here. Coincidentally, the Vacation Bible School Camp E.D.G.E. will be ending that evening as well.

There will be fellowship and fun for all, so mark your calendars today - for sure, we'd like to see you'all there!!

"America stands on two great pillars – faith and morality. Without these, our foundation crumbles."

—George Washington



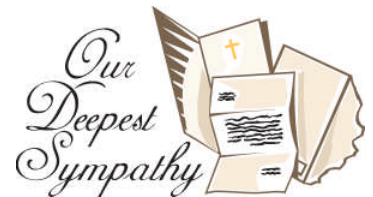
Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Audrey Thurston	397-8493
Gert Ruden	397-8211
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Mary Swisher	397-8337
Gloria Pharis	397-2375
Doris Zoellner	397-2417
Marjorie Townsend	298-5221
Darlys Kampa	395-6996
DeLoris Knoll	397-2681
Marvel Johnson	397-2425
Mary Ann Whede	397-8330

*Currently 82 on email prayer chain.

If you are not on this list or the email list, please notify the church office.



Aprons and the Clothesline Ladies Luncheon at Bethesda Church in Bristol at Noon on July 15th, \$8. Guest Speaker & Door Prizes. Please purchase tickets in advance: Maxine Biersbach 492-3696, Lois Carlson 345-3565, Elaine Chamberlin 492-3328, or Kay Espeland 492-3611.



Sympathies to the family of Richard Zoellner who passed away June 11th



Groton Baptism & Blessings Shower on July 5th for Aiden Daniel Strom born March 31st. Parents are Eugenia & Dwight Strom.

Our Church Celebrations

Groton

July 4 Seth Erickson

July 5 Allen & Joyce Walter

Cassandra Olson

Jasmine Schinkel

July 7 Ida Hannon

July 8 David Tewksbury

Kelby Hawkins

July 9 Jocelyn Peterson

Jordan Voss

July 10 Pernell & Noella Graf

July 11 Roger & Marjorie Overacker

July 12 Ashtyn Bahr

Brent & Christi Swenson

July 13 Jeff Voss

Jolene Townsend

July 14 Ava Kramer

Christine Nyberg

July 16 Linda Thurston

Richard Voss

July 17 Mackenzie Atherton

July 18 Josh & Merrie Atherton

Kaitilin O'Neill

Kevin Pray

July 19 Carol Strom

July 22 Gabrielle Furman

Jean Lowary

July 23 Joyce Walter

July 24 Christi Swenson

Maggie Oliver

Roger & Pam Rix

July 25 Jessica Pasteur

July 26 Lucius Geffre

Pat Knecht

Angela & Perryn Dobbins

July 27 Ryland Strom

Tony Madsen

July 28 Bob & Carolyn Snyder

Craig Weber

July 29 Curtis Krueger

July 31 Amanda Swenson

Lynette Furman

Conde

July 1 Arvon Taylor

July 3 Guy & Renee Hanlon

Norb & Donna Hearnen

July 6 Shanna Geist

July 10 Ann Menzia

July 14 Krystal Hanlon

July 23 Patty Knoll

July 27 Horace & Donna Walter

July 30 Judy Zeck

Birthdays &



Anniversaries

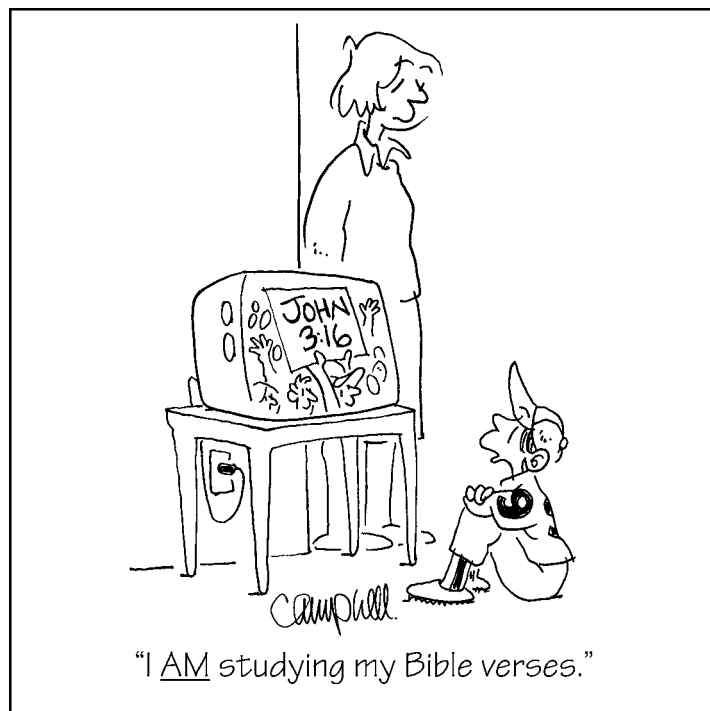


Interested in Membership?

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Groton United Methodist Church, please contact Pastor Rob or Clare Brotherton.

Pastor Rob can be reached at 397-8270 or email is robmoorlach@nvc.net.

Clare Brotherton can be reached at 397-8177 or email is ceebee@nvc.net



"I AM studying my Bible verses."

Groton UMW

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women held its last meeting before the summer recess on Wednesday evening. The PURPOSE was recited and Mary Swisher read a devotional that had been written by a member from the Lower James River District of the Dakotas.

The treasurer gave a financial report of the May Breakfast and explained the unit's pledge to mission. The 2009 pledge has been paid and the 2010 pledge was raised. Committee reports were given. The reading reports are due to Sharon Wheeting by August 1st. A monetary donation was made to the Area IV Senior Nutrition program.

The Fall Bazaar is being planned for October 7th. A new part of the bazaar this year will be a second hand Christmas store. The country store will feature garden produce and home canning. There will also be a bake

Groton UMW

No July & August Meetings

sale, lefse sale and craft sale along with supper lunch featuring homemade pie.

The next meeting will be on September 16th at 2:00 p.m. The social action committee will be in charge of the program and Carolyn Snyder and Gloria Pharis will be hostesses. The Glacial Lakes annual district meeting will be in Madison September 12th; the Ingathering in Mitchell September 26th; and the Dakotas Conference annual UMW meeting at North Highland United Methodist Church, Aberdeen, in October 2nd and 3rd.

Clare Brotherton and Audrey Thurston served dessert and coffee for lunch.

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



Conde Habitat for Humanity

Birthday Donation is voluntary during the month of your Birthday. House is available at the church for

Conde UMW - June 17

Conde United Methodist Women traveled to Clark to visit the Roettel Living Center where they visited a member, Marjorie Wright..

THOSE ATTENDING: Donna Hearnen, Pat Siefken, Donna Walter, Jane Worlie and Betty Taylor. Bars were taken by Donna Hearnen, Donna Walter and Betty Taylor. Pat Siefken was transportation expert for the day and led the program for the afternoon..

Pat read appropriate poetry. The group joined in hymn

singing with the residents of the Center, both on the program and requests for the day.

The group joined the residents for their afternoon lunch before they returned home. Pat Fey, niece of Marjorie, was a guest, also.

Betty Taylor, Secretary

What is Annual Conference?

This is a question asked by many in the church, but it is Important to each and every one of us.

This last June we met at Conference in Rapid City, which was unusual, as the rotation of meeting places usually takes place in central and eastern part of the Dakotas Conference - North and South Dakota.

Annual Conference committees meet to review their work, plan work and budgets for the coming year to bring to the attention of the 600 or so members of the Annual Conference.

Each Charge, or group of churches, is allowed to send their clergy and an equal number of lay members to the Conference. These are all voting members in addition to Committee chairs and members at large.

This past year, in the light of the economic climate, the budget was raised a small percentage. However, during the conference, it was brought to our attention the camps suffered flood damage this last Spring and Summer. The allowance of \$100,000.00 was added to our apportionments that we pay yearly to help proceed in repairing the camps. This would apply mainly to the Wesley Acres Camp in North Dakota. Wesley Acres provides boating experiences as they are on the river and had recently re-located some buildings as a result of the dam there which was done by the Corps of Engineers.

The Board of Pensions has been encouraging wellness for clergy and their family, thus our administrator and secretary were busy during Conference preparing for the time to continue with this. It was not unusual to see band aids on arms during the sessions, and it was heartening to see that this is going to be a serious project. For their efforts, the premiums for clergy health payments should be reduced, which will be helpful.

Lay members are encouraged to: develop leaders, create places for new people, eliminate poverty and improve health globally.

The Romans 12 Task Force report was adopted - it is good reading and carried out by the ads you have seen about Rethinking Church - not only go to church, but take church to others. That is the mission of this Dakotas Annual Conference.

Proposal is in the works to change the method of apportionments for the local churches - this will be an objective for the coming year.

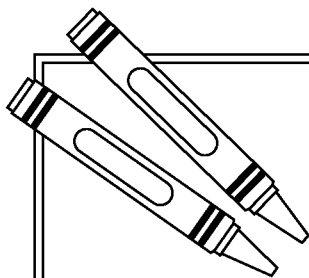
More mission teams are active in our Conference: solar ovens are increasing in use, the kits asked for in our churches are in great demand not only in this country, but around the world. A new addition to our depot at Sager Brown in Louisiana is being attempted at a three acre plot in Salt Lake City to accommodate the western part of our country. The facilities there are not as compact as Sager Brown, but churches do offer sleeping and eating facilities for those teams wishing to work there. Not only kits are assembled, but communities profit by work teams that repair and operate services for children and needy families.

Lay Speaking, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Women in Ministry and Dakotas United Methodist Historical Society hosted special gatherings at meal times.

Memorial Service and Ordination of new clergy were special moments to mark another year of progress.

Watch for announcements for special events, kits that are needed, and opportunities to rethink your church objectives.





Just for KIDS

TRAVEL BY DAY OR NIGHT

The way people travel has changed over time, but one thing has not changed — God was with people in biblical times just as He is with you and your family as you travel during your summer vacations.

Count the number of letters for each name, and then write the name in the spaces next to the verse that matches. (Hint: Besides counting the number of letters in the name, also pay attention to whether the person is from the Old Testament or New Testament.)

NAMES

Paul Moses Joseph The Israelites Abram crowds
Samaritan Jesus Naaman Angel of God

VERSES

“The _____ front of Israel’s army” Exodus 14:19

“And _____ went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt.” Genesis 41:46

“Go in peace,” said Elisha. After _____ had traveled some distance” 2 Kings 5:19

“_____ traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem.” Genesis 12:6

“_____ traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece.” Acts 20:2

“_____ traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.” Luke 8:1

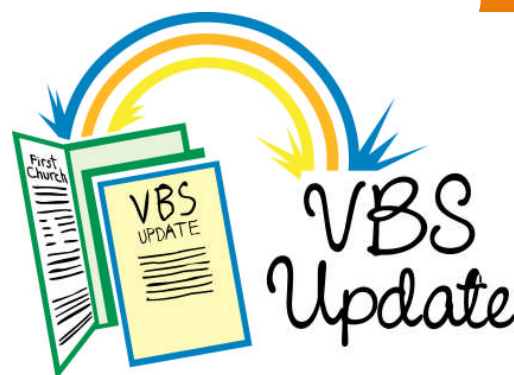
“Large _____ were traveling with Jesus.” Luke 14:25

“_____ traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho.” Numbers 22:1

“_____ led Israel from the Red Sea For three days they traveled in the desert” Exodus 15:22

“But a _____, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.” Luke 10:33

Answers: Angel of God; Joseph; Naaman; Abram; Paul; Jesus; crowds; The Israelites; Moses; Samaritan



August 2-5

At Groton UMC

Watch for Details!

Grace is a gift

When we work an eight-hour day and receive eight hours' pay for our efforts, that is a **WAGE**.

When we compete with an opponent and receive a trophy for our superior performance, that is a **PRIZE**.

When we receive something in recognition for our service or achievement, that is an **AWARD**.

But when we can earn no wage, can win no prize and deserve no award — yet we receive such a gift — that is unmerited favor. That is undeserved kindness. That is **GRACE**.



Five steps to a friendlier church

1. Speak to the other person first. Don't wait for him or her to take the initiative.
2. If there is someone you don't know, introduce yourself to him or her.
3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Invite newcomers to a worship service or to a church event and introduce them to other members.
5. Encourage people to participate in those church activities that interest them.

Cub Scouting

Despite the thunderstorms that threatened our area on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, Cub Scouts from Pack 264 of Groton enjoyed a nice field trip to Aberdeen. Their destination was Aberdeen Flying Service and the Aberdeen Regional Airport. At Aberdeen Flying Service, Scouts got a tour of the hangars to see the different planes. They also enjoyed climbing in a few of them to see how they fit. The Scouts then went over to the Aberdeen Regional Airport for a tour. They got to see a plane land, passengers unload/load, baggage unload/load, people going through the metal detector, the plane being refueled, the pilot checking his plane and

the bags going around on the baggage carousel. The highlight was they got to go through the metal detector, too! Almost everybody set it off, some more than others. Those in attendance were First Year Webelos Hayden Pigors and Second Year Webelos Dillon Freeman, Joe Groeblichhoff, Peyton Jondahl, Alex Kern and Kayde Wiedrick. Accompanying them on their trip were Cub Scout Committee Chair Sandi Kern and Webelos Den Leader Vicki Pigors.



Cub Scout News

May Pack Meeting- On Monday, May 18, Groton Cub Scouts Pack 264 enjoyed a picnic in the city park for their monthly Pack meeting. Cub master Clint Fjelstad and his assistant's grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and each family brought something yummy to share. After eating there were a couple of skits presented by one den and then the kids enjoyed minnow races and other games. We also were pleased to add a few new boys to our group during our spring recruitment!

June Pack Meeting- On Monday, June 15, Groton Cub Scouts Pack 264 held their monthly Pack meeting at the Groton United Methodist Church. This was our Cross Over Ceremony where the boys received their awards earned during the year and then they were able to "crossover" to the next level in scouting. After a skit entitled "Rinderella" was presented by the adults each boy was presented their awards by Cub Master Clint Fjelstad and Den leaders, Vicki Pigors and Anissa Poor. As each boy crossed over to the next level, they went through a large box and came out the other side with their new award. Refreshments and treats were served to a crowd which included parents, grandparents, siblings and friends.

Tiger Cub to Wolf Cub- Noah Poor, Grady O'Neill, Jamesen Stange

Wolf Cub to Bear Cub- Noah Allen, Micah Poor

Bear Cub to First Year Webelos- Hayden Pigors

First Year Webelos to Second Year Webelos- Nathan Fjelstad, Dillon Freeman, Joe Groeblichhoff, Peyton

Jondahl, Alex Kern, Kayde Wiedrick

Hayden Anderson and Jack McKiver also earned their Second Year Webelos badges. We are still looking to recruit more boys who are interested in being Boy Scouts in order to start a Boy Scout troop! We want to welcome the newest cub scouts: Austin Anderson, Gauge Funk, Braeden Freeman, and Austin Jones.

Webelos Field Trip- Despite the thunderstorms that threatened our area on Wednesday, June 24, Cub Scouts from Pack 264 of Groton enjoyed a nice field trip to Aberdeen. Their destination was Aberdeen Flying Service and the Aberdeen Regional Airport. At Aberdeen Flying Service, Scouts got a tour of the hangars to see the different planes. They also enjoyed climbing in a few of them to see how they fit. The Scouts then went over to the Aberdeen Regional Airport for a tour. They got to see a plane land, passengers unload/load, baggage unload/load, people going through the metal detector, the plane being refueled, the pilot checking his plane and the bags going around on the baggage carousel. The highlight was when they got to go through the metal detector too! Almost everyone set it off, some more than others. Those in attendance were First Year Webelos Hayden Pigors and Second year Webelos Dillon Freeman, Joe Groeblichhoff, Peyton Jondahl, Alex Kern and Kayde Wiedrick. Accompanying them on their trip were Cub Scout Committee Chair Sandi Kern and Webelos Den Leader Vicki Pigors.

DO NOT USE YOUR
FREEDOM
AS A COVER-UP
FOR EVIL; LIVE AS
SERVANTS OF GOD.

1 Peter 2:16, NIV



Groton Ad Council - June 10th

The financial report was reviewed and it was noted that we were able to make one apportionment payment but are still two months behind. We are thankful to those who responded generously to our recent mailing regarding our financial concerns. The council discussed the declining attendance since January which seems to have a direct impact on our member's level of giving.

Melissa Gilbert reported that Vacation Bible School had to be rescheduled due to lack of teachers and other scheduled events at the same time. The council decided that we should reschedule VBS for August 2 - 5 in conjunction with a family picnic to be held on August 5.

Carna Atherton Pray reported on some of the dis-

cussions at the Dakotas Conference. She told the council that there had been much flood damage at Lake Poinsett and at Wesley Acres camping areas. Repair will cost approximately \$100,000 and has been included in this year's budget.

It was reported that apportionments would increase approximately 5% and that there is a new proposed apportionment calculation. Therefore, it is important that we work to clean up our membership list. Those members who continue to stay on our rolls, but don't live here could be moved from the "active roll" to the "constituency roll". They would continue to have all services from the church but we would not pay apportionments for them. Our membership & evangelism committee will be working on this list.

Groton Stewardship Report June 2009

Average Wkly Giving	\$1,491
Needed Wkly for Church Mission	\$2,141
Average Weekly Attendance	60
Total Building Fund Donations	\$40

Greatness

It's great that we humans
Have knowledge and skill
To fly to the moon
And through space;
But greater than that
Is the God you can trust
To keep outer space
In its place!

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

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

Groton August Family Committee

Brent & Christie Swenson

Lee Swenson

Anita & John Lowary

Bob & Carolyn Snyder

John & Meri Erickson, Sydney

Brian & Andrea Bahr

Connie & Dave Nilsson, Alexa

Logan Nilsson

Pam & Doug Bahr

Bert Raap

Dion Bahr

William & Wanda Zoelner

Dick Oliver

Audrey & Clint Jacobson

August 2009						
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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					

Honorary Members

- Doris Strom
- Robert Hood
- Emery Sippel
- Clarence & Ida Hannon

August Extra Responsibilities

- Mow the lawn as necessary
- Aug 2nd change altar cloths to white and hang Communion Banner for this Sunday only
- Aug 9 change altar cloths to green and hang appropriate banner
- Clean the three NW Rooms (UMYF & 2 Sunday School)





July 2009						
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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 5 Baptism & Blessings Shower for Aiden Strom

July 8 Groton Ad Council 7 PM

Aug 1 Groton UMW Reading Program Reports to Sharon Wheeting

Aug 2-5 Groton VBS

Aug 5 Groton All-Church Picnic 5:30

Sept 12 UMW Glacial Lakes District Mtg in Madison

Sept 26 Ingathering in Mitchell

Oct 2-3 Dakotas Conf Annual UMW Mtg at North Highland UMC

Oct 7 Groton UMW Fall Bazaar