



# United Methodist Messenger

## Failure

A reporter recently asked me about the feelings I had leaving the Metrodome after watching my beloved Minnesota Twins lose. When asked I stared back as if to say, "What do think I'm feeling you big dope?" It hurts to lose. It hurts not to do as well as you thought. It hurts to fail a test. It hurts to make an embarrassing mistake. It hurts to have an experiment fail. You get the picture.

An experiment being tried in the Groton Church recently failed, although I must admit not totally to my surprise. For the past few weeks I've been putting certificates for free Dairy Queen Blizzards under the pews, in the hymnals and behind pew bibles in the hope it would lure people toward the front of the church. What I soon realized was people were not moving forward; instead, they were sending the kids hunting for the certificates following the church service. What a colossal, expensive failure that experiment was!

No one should really be surprised at the result – most of all me. One of my classes in college actually did a mapping survey over the course of two months as to where people sat in church. It was amazing to see the results of families and sub-groups of people sitting in the same areas of the sanctuary Sunday after Sunday.

There were a couple of explanations that seemed self-explanatory. Some people sat in the same pews because their families had purchased those pews in memory of their loved

ones. Does anyone remember the "pew tax" which is how many churches in the 1700's and 1800's raised money?

Other people sat in the same places because it was easy to "escape" the sanctuary with a noisy child even though their children now had children. Of course, others sat in places out of habit. The youth sitting in the balcony; the elderly sitting toward the front on the aisle.

Sitting in certain places can also be an experiment in how "welcoming" we are in church. In one of my first churches, I was about to enter the sanctuary for a funeral service when I heard a familiar voice coming from the other side of the wall say, "You're in my seat. I always sit there. Please move!" And I always thought the person saying it was a very warm, welcoming, hospitable person. The parishioner certainly failed to show those attributes in that situation. It also reminds me we never know who is watching and listening to us.

This past Sunday we talked about serving others. I tried to "serve" the church Dairy Queen blizzards but this is not the kind of service Jesus is looking for. Sure, I was happy to give to the kids. It was actually fun to watch them scramble after those certificates. But the kind of service Jesus is wanting, and the kind of service which is even better to watch, is the type which is truly welcoming and hospitable.

See you in church!

Pastor Rob

## What do you see?

Take a look at this line of type:

GODISNOWHERE

Did you read it as "God is nowhere"? Or are you an optimist who read it as "God is now here"?

"Conscience is the perfect interpreter of life."

—Karl Barth

"Education is an investment, not a cost."

—Eddie Basha





## Our Church Celebrations

### Groton

Oct 2 Winifred Fawcett  
 Oct 4 Fred Wolken  
       Josh Atherton  
 Oct 5 Brent Swenson  
       Jeanne Wanous  
 Oct 7 Allen Walter  
 Oct 8 Gloria Pharis  
       Lars & Kelli Hanson  
 Oct 10 Dan & Marjae Schinkel  
 Oct 12 Marc & Jane Johnson  
 Oct 13 Carina Atherton-Pray  
 Oct 14 Grady O'Neil  
 Oct 15 Brad Morehouse

Oct 18 Chelsey Luecke  
 Oct 21 Gary Heitmann  
 Oct 24 Karla Davidson  
 Oct 25 Lars Hanson  
 Oct 26 Harry & Gloria Pharis  
       ImoJeanne Oliver  
 Oct 29 Connie Nilsson  
 Oct 30 Holden Sippel  
 Oct 31 CJ Barton  
       Dawsyn Dinger

### Conde

Oct 9 Joseph Smith  
 Oct 21 Tony Lyren  
 Oct 22 Janice Hanson  
       Sherry Hanson  
       Shane Haskell  
       Marsha Murphy  
 Oct 29 Marcene Bruckner  
 Oct 31 Andee Geist



**Bud & Julie Bruckner  
 celebrated their 25th  
 Wedding Anniversary**

## Tomorrow

Do not look forward to  
 what might happen  
 tomorrow.

The same God who cares  
 for you today  
 Will take care of you  
 and yours tomorrow  
 and every day.  
 Either God will shield  
 you from suffering  
 Or God will give you  
 unfailing strength to  
 bear it.  
 Be at peace then and  
 put aside  
 All anxious thoughts  
 and imaginations.  
 —St. Francis de Sales

**Groton  
 UMC**



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.

## Groton UMW - Sept

- The Groton unit of United Methodist Women met at the church at 2:00 p.m.
- JoAnn Krueger led the program on Social Action entitled "Social Justice-Food Security". She proposed that thoughts might be directed at thinking about a food pantry in Groton. Perhaps our senators and representatives could be approached with questions and ideas.
- Jolene Townsend, president, opened the business meeting and the PURPOSE was repeated by group.
- The committee chairpersons gave brief reports. The October 7<sup>th</sup> Fall Bazaar was discussed. Lefse will be made at the church September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>.

- The nursery has been cleaned and new toys are needed. Monetary donations were made toward the purchase of what is needed for the nursery and the homecoming activities for the Area Groton School. A donation was voted toward the purchase of the outdoor banners which is in progress.
- Carolyn Snyder and Gloria Pharis served lunch at the close of the afternoon.
- The next meeting will be held October 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Clare Brotherton will lead the program on "The World Thank Offering" and members are asked to bring their offering boxes. The hostesses will be Susan Odland and Sharon Wheeting.

### Groton UMW Meets

**October 21 - Weds**

**2:00 PM**

World Thank Offering

Leader Clare

Brotherton

Hostesses

Susan Odland

Sharon Wheeting



## Groton UMW Fall Bazaar October 7th

**UMW Fall Bazaar 4-7 PM.** Serving Homemade Soup & Sandwiches with Homemade Pie.

We are asking everyone to please bring 3 items for the farmer's market/bake sale. A monetary donation may also be contributed instead of 3 items. Items may be brought prior to 12 PM Wednesday Oct 7<sup>th</sup>. We are also having a Christmas Store. Please bring new or gently used Christmas items by Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. Questions contact Meri Erickson or Connie Nilsson.

Lefse will be made Sept 24th, 25th, and 26th. Starting at 8:30 AM but you are welcome to join us at anytime. A sign-up sheet will also be located in the fellowship hall. If you have any lefse equipment we may use, please drop them off at the church.



## Conde Ad Council

Conde Administrative Council met September 23 at 8:00 PM opening with the reading of the Mission Statement and Pastor Rob leading in prayer.

Chair Patty Knoll led in the discussion of the projects of the church. The cost of the new vacuum cleaner will be paid from the Memorial Fund. Rugs and cleaning for the church are to be continued in discussion, also the cleaning of the eaves troughs.

A bid was given for gravel in the alley way behind the church. The computer is being repaired, and the

cleaning company is still not definitely decided.

Charge Conference for Groton-Conde will be hosted by the Conde Church on November 1st at 7:00 PM. The questions to be answered are "what are we doing" and "are we existing as a church?". A light lunch will be served following the meeting. Our financial plans and nominations for the year ahead will be considered, plus reports of various committees from the churches. Our District Superintendent, Greg Kroger, will preside at this meeting. All are welcome to attend.

## Conde UMW Met in Sept

Conde UMW met September 16, 2009 at the church with seven members present. President Donna Hearnen opened the meeting by leading in the reading of The Purpose. Joan Fahrenwald presented the Conference Booklet reading on Romans 2:14.

Thank you note was read from the family of Darlene Meyer.

Treasurer Jane Worlie reported a camping fee of \$37.50 had been paid; also our pledge for the year plus a like amount to increase Conference Pledge to Mission.

Cards were sent to Marjorie Wright, Larry Smith and Donna Barnes.

Bible Study group will meet the first Wednesday of the month at 8:00 PM with Pat Siefken to bring materials to be considered for Bible Study for the year.

Mission chair Donna Hearnen reported the following kits sent to In-Gathering: 39 school kits, 34 health kits, 5 layettes and 9 sewing kits.

Work chairs for the balance of the

year are Pat Siefken and Donna Walter; with Jane Worlie assisting September to December.

Undies and warm clothing will be taken to the Annual Meeting in Aberdeen on October 2 and 3.

Conference Prayer Vigil will be observed on November 20 at 9:30 - 10:15 AM stressing Hunger Awareness.

Shoe Box Christmas for Enemy Swim will be the responsibility of the individuals in our group.

Program focus on Autumn and Counting Your Blessings was presented by Joan Fahrenwald and Pat Siefken.

Hostess for the afternoon was Wilma Butler.

Bible Study will meet October 7 at 7:00 PM to study the Book of Galatians.

October General Meeting is October 21 at 2:00 PM, with Pat Siefken leading the focus on Native Americans. Hostess is Joan Fahrenwald. Annual Meeting is October 2 and 3 at

## Conde Events

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7  
Bible Study meets at church 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21  
United Methodist Women meet at 2:00 PM Pat Siefken leads Program Focus on Native Americans. Joan Fahrenwald is hostess.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25  
Carna Atherton Pray will be leading worship from the pulpit.

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY  
will be observed with the loose change in the offering to be used for this Advance Special.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28  
Conde Ad Council meets at 8:00 PM

NOVEMBER 1 - SET YOUR  
CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR AS  
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
ENDS.  
CHARGE CONFERENCE FOR  
GROTON-CONDE AT CONDE  
at 7:00 PM.

## Conde Habitat for Humanity

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





## World Communion Sunday October 4th

### Doors to Education

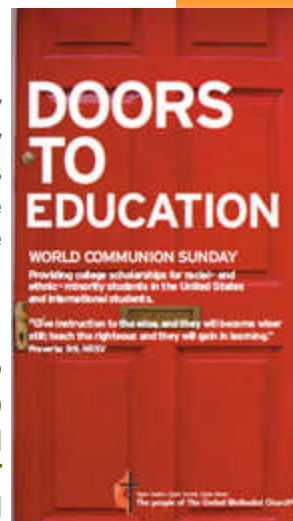
#### LIFE ON THE STREETS, OBSERVES LAURA PRESSLEY, IS PARTICULARLY HARD ON WOMEN.

"Women dealing with addiction don't have the safety net and support many men have," she says. "They're uneducated. They're poor. They are usually single mothers. And they are addicts." The faces and stories of the women she met while volunteering on a first-aid squad have stayed with her as she pursues a master's degree in counseling and addiction ministry at Methodist Theological School in Ohio. She hopes to create an inner-city residential treatment program for women of color. "Being able to merge my passion for psychology

and women's studies with my interest in addiction really clicked," she adds. "I know it's God's will for my life because I've never felt so much at peace with myself."

#### WITHOUT SCHOLARSHIP HELP FROM FUNDS RAISED ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES THIS YEAR.

"I'm up to my ears in school debt," Laura says. "It's only because of United Methodists who have given on World Communion Sunday that I am free to pursue the rest of my education without fear or anxiety."



### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



### Church Redecorating

Vicki and Alan Strom have done significant work to improve the appearance and utility of the library and chapel. Photos of the library were in last month's newsletter. The chapel is now ready to be used for special groups. If you have not been in to check the results, we encourage you to do so.

Thank you Vicki and Alan!

In the library a chart is posted listing all the new banners and those who purchased them and the time of year they will be used. Thank you all! Two books of "Dig or Die Brother Hyde" by Pastor Hyde are available in the library.

The Sunday School rooms have also had a facelift thank you to Neil and Melissa Gilbert. They are great!

Please leave the rooms organized after each use so they are ready for the next event! Thank you.







# Just for **KIDS**

## *A harvest of...*

Autumn brings many visible changes. God makes lots of foods and grains ready for harvest. He also tells us that if we sow in peace, we, too, can raise a harvest.

Find and circle the bold (dark) words from James 3:17-18, NIV.

"But the **WISDOM** that comes from **HEAVEN** is first of all **PURE**; then **PEACELOVING**, **CONSIDERATE**, **SUBMISSIVE**, full of **MERCY** and **GOOD FRUIT**, **IMPARTIAL** and **SINCERE**. **PEACEMAKERS** who **SOW** in **PEACE** raise a **HARVEST** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**."

C	S	P	E	A	C	E	L	O	V	I	N	G	F
O	U	E	U	X	W	C	E	Y	T	P	R	W	R
N	B	A	U	L	T	J	C	O	R	E	I	I	U
S	M	C	P	R	X	K	F	W	I	A	G	S	I
I	I	E	M	E	R	C	Y	I	I	C	H	D	T
D	S	T	C	E	R	U	D	M	Z	E	T	O	S
E	S	I	V	X	J	C	U	P	W	M	E	M	D
R	I	H	E	A	V	E	N	A	W	A	O	H	P
A	V	M	P	J	M	K	L	R	T	K	U	V	W
T	E	O	C	G	O	O	D	T	G	E	S	S	L
E	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	I	B	R	N	Y	O
X	H	D	D	R	Q	Q	E	A	Z	S	E	D	B
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G	I	P	U	R	E	S	O	Y	C	E	S	E	F

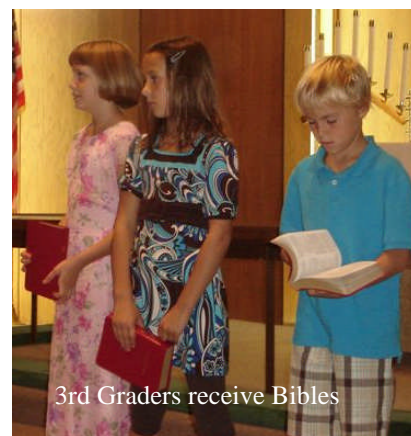


### Nursery/Playroom Wishlist

We are in need of new toys in the nursery/playroom. there is a donation list in the fellowship hall. If you would like to donate please take a ball or feel free to pick toy of your choice.

Thank you,

Education committee



3rd Graders receive Bibles

3rd Grade Bibles given in Groton

Sunday School Teachers



Groton Sunday School



"Now turn to hymn 206. Sing the first verse. Mumble the third. Hum the fifth."

### A church garden

First, plant five rows of peas:

Presence  
Promptness  
Preparation  
Purity  
Perseverance.

Next to these, plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip.  
Squash criticism.  
Squash indifference.

No garden is complete without turnips:

Turn up for meetings.  
Turn up with a smile.  
Turn up with new ideas.  
Turn up with determination to make everything  
count for something good and worthwhile.



Groton UMYF will meet October 7th at  
7 PM at Pastor Rob's House.

See you there!



Prove **me**,  
O LORD, and  
try **me**;  
test my **heart**  
and **mind**.

PSALM 26:2, NRSV



## Cub Scouts

Groton Cub Scouts Pack 264 had a very busy summer! There are no vacations from scouting during the months of June, July, and August. Here are a few of the activities that the scouts have been involved in the past couple of months. In July, the Webelos traveled to the AmericInn in Aberdeen to work on their Aquanaut badge involving water safety and swimming.

On August 2, the pack met at Pierpont Lake for a Day Camp where various activities took place including a hike, working on tying different knots, fishing, and building a campfire. The scouts also built two push cars in July and then those were brought to the Day Camp for the boys to paint them and decorate them. Unfortunately, the push car races scheduled to be held in Aberdeen were postponed and yet to be rescheduled.

On September 14, the pack met once again to tackle a big but worthwhile project! The Groton Cub Scouts and several adult helpers constructed a great Homecoming parade float. The boys really enjoyed

this project and were really excited to be able to show off their talents and uniforms during the parade on September 18. We were also able to use our push cars along side the float too! Sica Hollow near Sisseton became the meeting place for the pack on September 19. We met in the afternoon and were given a walking tour by the forester who also gave some historical information about Sica Hollow. The afternoon and evening were spent taking hikes, exploring, picking up trash, playing games, having an evening meal and of course, a campfire with smores!

October brings us to the month of fall recruitment to try to sign up boys in grades 1-5 to join our pack and also our yearly fund-raiser of POPCORN SALES! The scouts are eager to go out and about in the community and meet new people and sell some of that delicious Boy Scout popcorn. Our thanks, as always, to the Groton United Methodist Church for sponsoring our pack.

Joni Groebelinghoff

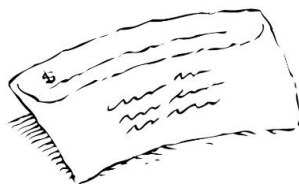
**Cub Scouts will be selling popcorn the month of October.**

**Buy some to give at Christmas!**



## I am your church envelope

I would like to talk with you, for  
 I am part of your church life.  
 I may be a complete stranger to you, but  
 I can help you be a better Christian.  
 I like to go to worship on Sunday, for  
 I help you to be Christ's partner.  
 I am very small, but  
 I am the keystone of your church program.  
 I am a weekly reminder of your daily blessings.  
 I dare you to be as good to God as he has been to you.  
 I am only paper, but  
 I carry the full gift of a generous heart.  
 I am the only pocketbook you need on Sunday, and  
 I promise not to be a burden.  
 I am your chance to preach, for  
 I am a silent sermon of your devotion.



Join the world of online banking through electronic giving. This has given me ease of mind knowing that I am always supporting the missions of the church and giving back to God part of what he has given me. As I set up for worship on Sunday morning, getting an envelope ready is one less item I have to worry about and that is a blessing. Kay Brandt

See Anita or Myself to join this form of giving to the church mission.



## A fishy excuse

Two men were in a boat fishing on a Sunday morning. "I suppose we should have gone to church this morning," said one man. "Don't you feel a wee bit guilty about it?"

"Nope," said the other, "besides, I couldn't have gone anyway. My wife's sick in bed today."

## A table blessing for children

We thank you, God, for happy hearts,  
for rain and sunny weather.  
We thank you, God, for this our food,  
and that we're all together. Amen.

## Coffee and the church

An 8-year-old girl who lived two doors away from a retired pastor asked him, "Why do you drink coffee?" The surprised pastor answered with a smile, "Because I like the taste of it and it gets me going in the morning."

That pastor might have been interested in this bit of trivia: In 1592, Pope Clement VIII declared coffee to be a legitimate drink for Christians. Before that edict, it had been labeled "the wine of infidels" because of its popularity among non-Christians.

## Cookies for Friends

Autumn is the perfect time of the year to sow kindness and reap a "harvest" full of friendships. Make this special treat to share with someone.

### What you need:

- An adult to help
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1½ cups diced, roasted almonds
- 1 cup chocolate pieces
- Raffia or fall-colored ribbon (optional)

### What you do:

1. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
2. Beat in egg, pumpkin and vanilla.
3. In separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon.
4. Add dry mix to creamed mixture.
5. Add almonds and chocolate pieces; mix thoroughly.
6. Drop by teaspoons onto well-greased cookie sheets.
7. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
8. Cool on racks. Makes about six dozen.
9. Stack two cookies on top of each other. Then tie them like a present with the raffia or ribbon. Give the cookies to friends and family to thank them for their friendship.



## What is stewardship?

Stewardship is not just raising funds; It's raising Christians. Stewardship is not a matter of budgets; It's a matter of faith.

Groton Mission  
Statement  
"Enriching  
Spiritual lives"

## Groton Stewardship Report Sept 2009

Average Wkly Giving \$1,979  
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,141  
Average Weekly Attendance 108  
Total Building Fund Donations \$170



## Groton Nov Family Committee

**Diann & Brad Morehouse**

**Marva & Lon Gellhaus**

Justin Morehouse

Marjorie & Roger Overacker

Mendy & James Jones

Kim & Craig Weber

Jay & Linda Johnson

Melissa & Neil Gilbert

Chris & Sherwin Nyberg

Angela & Perryn Dobbins

Laurel & Monte McNickel

Jesse & Jaymie Overacker

Jack Oliver

Nathan & Kate Zeeb

### Honorary Members

- Dick & Gert Ruden
- Eunice Sperry
- Gerald & Ann Rix
- Irene Breitreutz
- Joy & Don Walter

### November Extra Responsibilities

- Nov 1 change altar cloths to white for this Sunday only
- Nov 8 change altar cloths to green
- Nov 22 change altar cloths to white - Christ the King Sunday
- Nov 29th change the altar cloths to purple
- Arrange to order Poinsettias
- Put up church indoor and outdoor decorations with Dec committee and all church members (check date with Pastor)
- Clean Pastor and Secretary's Office
- No Potluck if Men have their dinner



## November 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					

Email Addresses will be included in the Family Committee books this year. If you do not wish to have it in here please email the church office.



# OCT BER

Groton/Conde Parishes

## October 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



## Our Church Happenings

- Oct 4 Gloria Pharis Birthday Celebration - 70th - cake during coffee hour
  - Oct 4 World Communion Sunday
  - Oct 7 Groton UMYF 7 PM at Pastor Rob's House
  - Oct 7 Groton UMW Fall Bazaar 4-7 pm
  - Oct 7 Conde Bible Study 7 pm
  - Oct 11 Groton Baptism of Toby Dobbins, son of Angela & Perryn Dobbins.
  - Oct 14 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
  - Oct 21 Conde UMW 2 pm
  - Oct 21 Groton UMW 2 pm
  - Oct 25 Conde World Hunger Sunday
  - Oct 25 Newsletter Items Due
  - Oct 28 Conde Ad Council 8 pm
  - Oct 30-31 Basic Advanced Lay Speaking Courses at Jamestown First UMC - info in Office
  - Nov 1 Daylight Saving Time Ends
  - Nov 1 Charge Conference 7 pm at Conde UMC
-