



United Methodist Messenger

January 2009

www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc

**Groton/Conde UMC
Parishes**

How to keep warm in church

1. Rush to the front of the sanctuary. That will warm you up, and you'll avoid the draft in the back of the church.
2. Invite your neighbors and friends, and sit 12 people to a pew.
3. Seat yourself near the pulpit. Much hot air is emitted from that area.
4. Wear thermal underwear (in the appropriate liturgical colors, of course).
5. Wait for an unfamiliar hymn – and then watch the sparks fly!



In the Shadow

My mind would not stay focused on the children's program. There was something going on right behind them throughout the program which kept my attention. It was the shadow of the cross.

I suppose this sounds "spiritual" or "deeply meaningful" but it really isn't. If you have been to the United Methodist Church in Groton, you will notice the cross at the front of the church is suspended by two wires above the altar. Whenever the spotlights are on the front of the church, especially in the evening, there will always be a "shadow" caused by the lights reflecting on the cross.

What I kept thinking about as I looked at the shadow that night while listening to children singing Christmas songs was, "What is Christmas about? Is it the birth of Jesus or is it the 'mission' He came to fulfill?" I finally came to the conclusion it has to be both.

Of course Christmas is about the birth of Jesus – Emmanuel, God with us. Christianity is the only major religion in the world in which our God has come to not only live among but "be" one of His people. God did not simply send a "spirit." God, literally and in every way possible, intersected history with the birth of His Son. Jesus felt what we feel and experienced what we experience. It makes God's relationship with us unique. Whether we are

happy or sad; full of joy or full of sorrow, the God that created the universe knows what we are going through.

Personally, knowing that God knows what it feels like to be frustrated or happy or content or full of sadness, helps when I'm dealing with those things.

On the other hand, Christmas has to be about the cross as well. Read John 1:1-12 or Romans 5 to understand the mission of God sending His son to earth. It was only through the life, example, death and resurrection of the truly human Son of God that we can know freedom from sin and a relationship with God. Sure, the cross might be in the background, but it is just as important during Christmas as it during any time of year.

I saw a commercial on television this morning for a "strange" piece of jewelry. Some company has designed a cross that has a crystal in the middle. When held up to a light, the Lord's Prayer can be read in the crystal. I thought it was strange, not because of the crystal, but because of what is in the crystal. Is the Lord's Prayer the 'center' of Christian faith? Is it the thing we focus on when thinking of the cross? I think the manufacturers missed the point of the cross and of Christmas.

It's not about what Jesus said; it's about who Jesus is. Pastor Rob

Our Church Celebrations

Conde

Jan 3 Bruce Herman
 Jan 5 Tony & Marcene Bruckner
 Jan 8 Darrel Haskell
 Jan 10 Donna Hearnen
 Jan 11 Norman Smith
 Jan 20 Mike & Patty Knoll
 Jan 27 Darrel & Joyce Haskell
 Jan 30 Alice Hanson
 Jan 31 Kevin Hanlon

Groton

Jan 2 Holly Walter
 Jan 3 Bob Walter
 Caroline Graf
 Jan 5 Austin Luecke
 Jan 6 Todd & Robin Williamson
 Zachary Townsend
 Jan 7 Karla & Russell Davidson
 Jan 9 JoAnn Krueger
 Richard Oliver
 Jan 10 Anita Voss



Marvel Johnson
 Neil Gilbert
 Melissa & Neil Gilbert

Jan 11 Randy Padfield
 Jan 13 Lance Hawkins
 Monte McNickle
 Jan 14 Jay & Linda Johnson
 Jan 15 Alissa Wells
 Jan 16 Hunter Bahr
 Marjorie Overacker
 Jan 18 Cheryl Graf
 Jan 19 Tim Graf
 Jan 20 David Nilsson
 Jan 21 Pam Bahr
 Jan 22 Bob & Marvel Johnson
 Jan 24 Michelle Padfield
 Jan 25 Russell Townsend
 Jan 26 Doris Zoellner
 Jan 27 Kristie Hawkins
 Jan 28 Ruby Luce
 Audrey Miller



Wedding Shower for

Garrett & Sindi Heitmann

January 17th

Saturday

9:30-11:30

At the Groton UMC



Thank You

“Keeping Christmas is good, but sharing it with others is even better.”

The Missions Committee would like to thank all who donated to the Christmas Angel Tree. Christmas was made brighter for ten children by your generous donations. A special thanks to Anita Lowary for her assistance.

The Missions Committee

Open Door Community Center is Cooking

Open Door Community Center (Child Care) in Bismarck, North Dakota, is seeking recipes for the first-ever Open Door Cookbook.

Persons who submit three or more recipes will be entered into a drawing for a cookbook. Five lucky persons will win!

To enter, submit your favorite recipes before January 20, 2009. You can do this online at <http://www.gandrublishing.com/>. At the upper right hand corner of the screen, enter cookbook as the username and **recipes08** as the password. Click on login.



Sharing
& Caring

If you'd rather send your recipe via snail mail, send your recipes to Lisa Brandner, 3531 Southridge Lane, Bismarck, ND 58604.

Be sure to include your name, your church name and town as well as your phone number in case the cookbook in case the committee needs to contact you with questions.

The cookbooks will be available for sale by Easter. Selling price will be \$15.00. If you'd like to preorder a cookbook, contact Lisa at the above address.

Human Relations Day - January 18th

January 20, 2008: Human Relations Day is one of the opportunities for United Methodist Churches to celebrate our connectional work. This day of social action and raising awareness aims to heal social ills at the national level. It supports [Community Developers](#), [United Methodist Voluntary Service \(UMVS\)](#), and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. The first two programs are administered through the General Board of Global Ministries.

In The United Methodist Church calendar, Human Relations Day happens the Sunday immediately following the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The juxtaposition of these two very special days is not a coincidence. The United Methodist *Book of Discipline* describes the purpose of Human Relations Day as a call to "the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other."

[The Community Developers program](#) is one of the most exciting opportunities through which United Methodist churches assist ministries in racial-ethnic United Methodist Churches and communities throughout the United States. Local congregations initiate the work of a community developer, create effective

responses to specific community needs, create a network of community developers that resource each other, and provide training and resources for them. The result is that these congregations make systemic changes that allow them to provide services in their communities, ranging from education and substance abuse to employment training, affordable housing, at-risk youth programs, HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, and much, much more.

Through the [United Methodist Voluntary Service](#), Global Ministries seeks to be in supportive relationship with grass-roots organizations that work through youth and young adult volunteers to challenge oppression and injustice and to improve the lives and fulfill the potential of those whom Jesus called the "least of these."



Health Kits Collected Jan/Feb in Groton

The Mission Committee is asking for donations to the Health Kits. Health kits provide the basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. The kit items will be collected in January and February. The items are listed below. If you would like to donate cash you may do so and items for the kits will be purchased.



- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27"), no kitchen towels
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

Groton January Potluck & De-Decorating

Sunday, January 11, 2009 – Coffee will be served following church, with a breakfast brunch to follow at 1030. January work committee members will be serving egg and breakfast bakes. Suggested items to bring are complementary breakfast items such as rolls, muffins, fruit, etc. Church decorations will be taken down during coffee time and following the brunch.

Tuesday AM Bible Study will start a new study on January 13th
"Decisions - Seeking God's Guidance"

Groton Mission Statement
"Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."

How Stanley became a good student

In his book *Victorious Living*, missionary E. Stanley Jones tells how he answered a young person who asked, "Shall I be a student or shall I be a religious man?"

Jones said he could see no conflict between the two. Indeed, he had discovered that living for God actually made him a better student.

Jones told the fellow that before he became a

Christian, he had been at the bottom of his classes. After Jones gave his life to Christ, he concluded that being a poor student was no place for a Christian.

So he began studying seriously, praying his way through school. Jones devoted his intellect toward serving God, and as a result, God's power radiated through him.

Conde UMW - December

Conde United Methodist Women met at the church December 17 at 11:00 AM. Betty Taylor led the lesson, "Christmas: O Come Let us Adore Him". The central point of Christmas is the Nativity Scene, with many scenes available for everyone. Scriptures, readings and hymns were participated in by the entire group.

Pat Siefken opened the business meeting by leading in the reading of the Purpose. Patty Knoll read the lesson from the Conference Worship Book. Those who would be remembered by the group were sent Christmas cards.

Program books for 2009 were presented to the

group by Pat Siefken. Donna Hearnen had purchased gifts for families in Redfield.

We will be collecting gifts for Redfield during the month of January, which is a church wide project.

Hostesses for the noon lunch were Cindy Smith and Patty Knoll.

January meeting will be at 11:00 AM on January 21 with Jane Worlie leading the program "Giving Makes Mission Possible". Donna Walter and Betty Taylor are hostesses.

Good Samaritan Center Donations in Conde

All groups in the Conde Church are urged to donate to the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield. This Center is crucial to those who are in need, either food, counseling, shelter or items necessary for their living.

Suggestions are: paper products, canned goods, packaged goods for quick meals and personal cleanliness items.

There will be a basket in the narthex of the

church for your ease in bringing your gifts. Feel free to call anyone in the church for suggestions or help in bringing items.

Thank you for your generosity.

Conde UMW
January 21
11AM
"Giving Makes
Mission Possible"
by Jane Worlie
Hostesses
Donna Walter
Betty Taylor

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

Conde Worship

Beginning this first Sunday in 2009, Conde worship will begin at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This is an effort to conserve energy and enjoy the fellowship of others on Sunday morning. This is January 4, which is Epiphany Sunday and also Communion Sunday.

Please join us in worship and fellowship.

Conde Dinner Theatre Presented

Conde Church presented it's Dinner Theater December 13th; and due to weather, postponed its last presentation until December 20th.

The theater, "Bethlehem PD" was a take off on the television presentation with Sergeant Joe Thursday and Officer Frank Cannon, complete with the entire Christmas Story.

Patty Knoll directed the production with Lance Haskell as narrator. Horace Walter and Norman Smith were the detectives trying to find the baby, thwarted by the rascally man and a harrassed inn-keeper. The Holy Family was found by shepherds and the Three Kings.

The cast included Loren Siefken, Betty Geist, Wilma Butler, Donna Walter, Donna Hearnen, Greg Peterson, Andee Geist, Jane Worlie, Pat Siefken and Shanna Geist.

Cindy Smith and her staff prepared the excellent dinner which was served before the theater production.

Our thanks and appreciation go out to all who participated in this event and braved the elements to attend the productions.



Groton Sunday School

Sunday school will resume on Jan. 11, 2009. Church will be at 9:00am. Sunday school will be from 10:00am- 11:00am. Here is a schedule for the Spring Semester.

Jan. 11= SS Jan. 18= SS

Jan. 25= SS Feb. 1= Sing in Church

Feb. 8= SS Feb. 15= No SS

Feb. 22=SS Mar. 1= SS

Mar. 8=SS Mar. 15= SS

Mar. 22=No SS Mar. 29= SS

Apr. 5=Palm Sunday Sing in Church

Apr. 12= No SS Apr. 19=SS


Apr. 26=SS May 3=SS

May 10=Mother's Day Sing in Church. Last day of SS. Mother's and Graduates honored.

VBS= Tentative schedule June 1-4, 2009. Camp Edge is the Theme. Potluck is planned for June 4th with short program. All are welcome.

****We are looking for a Spring Sunday School Teacher in one of the following grades. Preschool, K-2nd, or 3rd&4th grade. If anyone is interested please let me know ASAP. We are hoping to not have to combine any more grades.****


Thank you, Melissa Gilbert
UMC SS Superintendent



CHARACTER THAT PLEASES

The New Year is a time for renewed commitments and changes in our behavior. Complete the puzzle below to see whose example is worthy of imitating or copying.

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to finish the NIV Bible verse.




Y	
A	S
O	F
.	
:	1

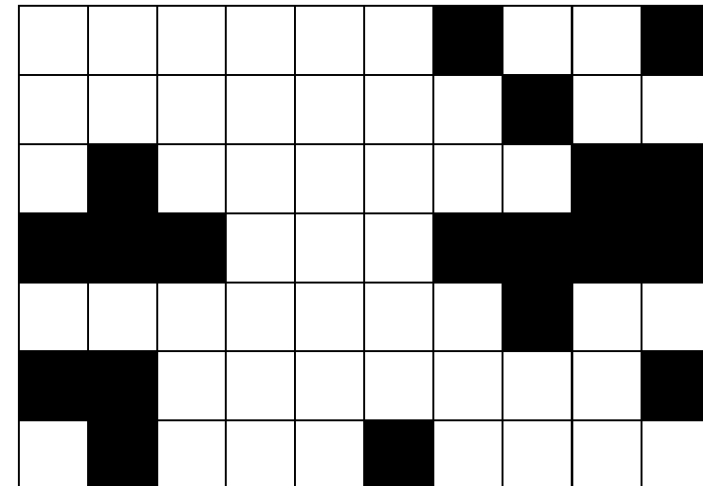
	M
E	
O	W
E	
S	T
1	1

L	L
A	M
F	O
	T
A	M
C	H
C	O

O	W
P	L
L	L
H	E
P	L
R	I
R	

F	O
E	X
I	
E	X
1	





I Cor. 11:1
Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.



Those attending the UMYF Ski Trip on Feb 13-15 need to have a deposit of \$25 to Pastor Rob by January 14th. Total cost of the trip is \$110 per person (includes lift pass, ski rental, lodging, and meals)

Newsletter Changes

This is the first month of not doing a bulk mailing for our newsletter. If you encounter any problems receiving it, please let Kay know as we work through this transition time. At the moment we have 126 people to receive the newsletter via e-mail. We have 56 people going to pick it up at their church either Groton or Conde. And I will be mailing out 45 first class. If you have another option of receiving the newsletter other than by first-class mail, please let Kay know. We still wish to have everyone have access to the happenings of our church. Kay

Ways to start off the New Year

According to historians, the celebration of the New Year is the oldest holiday. Ancient Babylonians first observed it in the spring about 4,000 years ago. In 153 B.C., the Roman Senate declared January 1 as New Year's Day.

The early church started to hold religious observances that coincided with pagan celebrations. Some denominations still mark Christ's circumcision on New Year's.

The tradition of making resolutions dates back to the Babylonians, who often promised to return borrowed farm equipment. Using a baby to symbolize rebirth and the new year dates back to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians.

Modern-day New Year's customs often focus on prosperity. In Spain, people eat 12 grapes at midnight, hoping to have 12 happy months to come. The Dutch eat donuts because another year has come full circle. One of the best ways to start off the New Year is by spending time in prayer. Look back on God's many blessings during the completed year and ask for his guidance in the one to come. Also consider starting the tradition of praying for people around the world on New Year's Day.



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
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.



Who's at the Table? UMW January 21st

This is the new theme for Groton UMW this year. Come and experience what will be happening at our January meeting at 2:00 PM on January 21st.

Program is Food & Faith: "Where would Jesus sit?" by Jolene Townsend. Hostesses are Jolene Townsend and Twila Ruden.



Why go to Church?

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

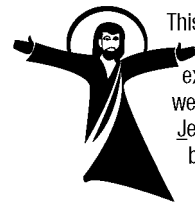
Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. 'I've gone for 30 years now,' he wrote, 'and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.'

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher.

'I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this.. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!' When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

WWJD key chain



This craft is a reminder of Jesus' perfect example for us. When we ask "What Would Jesus Do?" we can build our character to be more like his.

What you need:

- 16 inches of bead and jewelry cord (about 1 mm thick)
- 32 mm split ring (key ring)
- 4 wooden beads (about 1 cm or 3/8")
- 5 jewelry beads (plastic or wooden, about 1/2 cm or 1/2")
- black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Fold your jewelry cord in half.
2. Put the loop of the jewelry cord through the split ring.
3. Put the ends of the cord through the loop to make a knot.
4. Thread the two ends through one of your small beads.
5. Then thread the rest of the beads (alternating between small and large, ending with a small bead).
6. Tie two or three knots at the end to hold the beads in place.
7. With a permanent marker, write a letter (W, W, J and D) on each of the four wooden beads. On the opposite side of each bead, write the same letter.

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today."

—Franklin Roosevelt

Groton Ad Council - Dec

The council discussed how pleased they were with the repainted nativity figures. The completed project is the result of volunteer work done by Susan Odland and we are very grateful for her talent and time.

The trustees reported that the carpet in the fellowship hall and the hallway has been cleaned.

Our Outreach/Missions Committee reported that they had delivered some food baskets prior to Thanksgiving and had started an Angel Tree project for the Christmas season.

Pastor Rob reported that Justin Moorehouse had led the last couple of Youth Fellowship meetings and that the group is still making plans for a ski trip in February as well as raising money for future mission trips.

Kay Brandt reported that the Boy Scout group has taken on a few new members and that their main meeting will be the third Monday of each month.



Arrow in the top right hand corner of the photo is pointing to the projector mounted on the ceiling. And you can now see the front of the sanctuary when the screen is in use. The screen can be drawn up when not in use. The laptop controls are in the choir loft near the organ.

Join us in church and enjoy our new screen addition. Better yet! Tell Kay you would love to learn to run the system. Otherwise, if she is gone, there will be no slides.

My Morning Prayer

What guidance is God giving
For my living of this day?
Will I help someone who's needy?
Will I have kind words to say?

Will outrageous acts of kindness
Be the gifts that I can share?
Let YOUR will, God, be mine today,
Help me to love and care!

—Peggy Ferrell, Poems, Prayers and Hymns



Restore us,
O God Almighty;
make your face shine
upon us, that we
may be saved.

Psalm 80:7, NIV

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
—Martin Luther King Jr.



Groton February Church Family Committee

Brent & Christi Swenson

Lee Swenson

Anita & John Lowary

Jane & Marc Johnson, Tanner

John & Meri Erickson, Evan, Sydney

Brian & Andrea Bahr

Connie & Dave Nilsson, Alexa

Logan Nilsson

Pam & Doug Bahr

Bert Raap

Dion Bahr

William & Wanda Zoellner

Dick Oliver

Audrey & Clint Jacobson



Honorary Members

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

Extra Responsibilities

- Feb 1 change altar cloths to white and hang communion banners for this day only
- Feb 8 change altar cloths to green and change to monthly communion banners
- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Clean Coffee/Furnace Storage Room
- Potluck 2nd Sunday
- Feb 25 Change altar cloths to purple for Ash Weds
- Feb 22 change altar cloths to white for Transfiguration Sunday

February 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

Groton Church Family Committee Book Changes

Serve at Golden Living Center

A Church service is provided at the nursing home each Sunday afternoon. Pastor Rob leads a short service the 2nd Sunday at 3:00 pm. Cookies or bars are to be served by the participating church at 3:30. Two people and three dozen cookies are needed for refreshments. Coffee & juice are provided by the nursing home. Questions may be directed to Clare Brotherton.

Serve Lenten Supper

Each work committee is responsible to prepare, serve, and clean-up one Lenten supper. Soup & Sandwiches are typically served but other choices are optional. Prepare for 50 people. Meal is

served from 6-7 pm. Take a free-will offering which should be turned over to Anita Lowary or Kay Brandt. It will be used to defray the cost of the meal. Groceries may be charged or receipts given to Kay for reimbursement. Questions may be directed to Gloria Pharis or Clare Brotherton.

Lenten Supper Serving List

Feb 25 - Jan/July Committee

March 4 - Feb/Aug Committee

March 11 - March/Sept Committee

March 18 - April/Oct Committee

March 25 - May/Nov Committee

April 1 - June/Dec Committee



Groton/Conde UMC
Parishes

Church Times Change
Groton at 9 AM
Conde at 11 AM



If you received this in the mail
and are able to pick it up at the
church or receive through
email, please contact Kay

Our Church Happenings

- Jan 7 Groton UMYF at the church at 7 pm
Jan 11 Groton Sunday School Mtg at noon. Please come & help.
Jan 11 Groton brunch at 10:30 bring an appropriate dish to pass
Jan 11 Groton All Church De-Decorating
Jan 13 Groton Tues AM Bible Study resumes at 10 AM
Jan 14 Groton Ad Council at 7 PM
Jan 14 Groton UMYF Ski Trip Deposit is due!
Jan 15 Groton Men's Bible Study resumes at 7 AM
Jan 17 Groton Wedding Shower Garrett & Sindi Heitmann 9:30-11:30
Jan 18 Human Relations Sunday
Jan 21 Conde UMW Meeting at 11 AM
Jan 21 Groton UMW Meeting at 2 PM
Jan 25 Q & A Sunday. Ask Pastor Rob Anything!
(within reason)
Jan 28 Conde Ad Council 8 PM
Feb 13-15 Groton UMYF Ski Trip

January 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