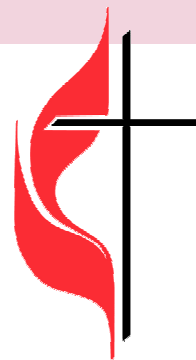


# United Methodist Messenger



## Don't Miss these....

- > Church Happenings on outside of newsletter
- > Newsletter in Color Online
- > Mother's Day May 11th
- > Groton Bible School May 19-23



## Precious People

I have had contact with some wonderful folks who have remarkable stories to share.

They are not aware that their lives are much different than the rest of us, but these folks have had amazing things happen. God has given them the strength, endurance and grace to get through these stressful times, some filled with tragedy.

Many people in South Dakota in earlier times went through periods of extreme hardship with a lack of money, crops, and loss of jobs. They did not complain much then as most of those around them were in the "same boat". But their words and stories give us now a sense of "if they could do it, maybe I can too".

One lost his father in an accident and life might have been entirely different that the one experienced had that father lived.

One shared that his father worked so hard everyday that he died at an early age depriving the family of his protection, love and earning power.

One shared that her husband to be told her while they were working in a patch of watermelons that he would take care of her his whole life, and he did. The quarter of land they bought for \$19.00 is worth hundreds of thousands now. "What would I spend it on? I have everything I need, I'll leave it for my children."

Oh, the tears flow with the precious memories of people who have given much of themselves to help others. The eyes brighten to tell of these remarkable tales of fulfillment and joy at just being together with family, friends, and freedom to work, share and be together. A simpler life, sure, but one of great contentment.

One single thread weaves through these lives and that is that they give credit to God for bringing them through and helping them in all the special ways they could not. Some might call it "luck" or "fate", but we know it to be the hand of God upon our lives.

No matter where our lives take us and experiences come into our lives, God knows all about us and the direction God desires us to take. Life is so much easier when we give God control over the areas of life beyond ourselves. We can relax knowing that God's plan and purpose will be revealed to us if we just wait.....and see.

I am so blessed to hear of these shared remembrances and know the people who have gifted us with their own memories some gentle, some not. They just confirm for me the greatness of the One who gave us all life.....and I thank God each day for each one of YOU!

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Jan

May 2008



# ARMED FORCES DAY

**Groton UMC  
May Breakfast**

**May 7th**  
"Love your  
Healthy Heart" with  
speaker Andrew  
Miller from the  
Avera St. Lukes  
Heart Education  
Dept. Cost will be  
\$7 serving at 11:30  
and 1:15.  
Reservations taken  
by Clare Brotherton  
and DeLoris Knoll.



**Blessings Shower  
And  
Baptism  
May 4th**

Emerlee Darlene Jones  
born March 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Daughter of  
Jim & Mendy Jones

**Congratulations**

Shawn and Paul Snyder, Grand Forks, N.D. welcomed a baby boy, born March 30, 2008, named Simeon Robert Snyder. He joins 5 brothers, Jacob, Nathan, David, John, and Titus, and two sisters, Claire and Leah. Grandparents are Bob and Carolyn Snyder and Neil and Connie Wagner.

**Groton Graduation  
Sunday May 11**

Reception at 10 AM during  
Coffee Hour and honored in  
Church at 11 AM

**Ali Pasteur  
Murdock McNickle  
Amanda Swenson  
Jordan Voss  
Desiree Morehouse  
Trista Telkamp  
Tim Kaiser**



**Graduation  
Sunday**

**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 Johnson	397-2425
Mary Ann Whede	397-8330

\*Currently 72 on email prayer chain.



**Sympathies to the  
family of  
Ed Cunningham**  
who passed away  
April 22.



## Groton UMC Youth headed to camp!

Jasmine Schinkel, Gabrielle Kramer, and Dale Kramer will go to Dayspring #1 on June 13-15.

Michaela Oleson—MADD Camp August 5-10th.

Kristopher Oleson—Soul Survivor on Aug 3-8.

Alec Oleson—StarMakers on June 2-8.

Sydney Erickson, Camille Sippel, Kylie Hawkins, and Katelyn Hawkins will all attend Jr High Sand, Surf & Son on Aug 3-8th.

Martha Miller—Guitar Camp on June 22-27.

Alexa Nilsson—LTC on July 20-26.

Dylan Vogel—Water Mania on July 6-11.

## Our Church Celebrations May

### Groton Birthday's

May 1 Don Bartz  
May 3 Kim Weber  
May 4 Desiree Morehouse  
Evan Erickson  
Tom Strom  
May 5 Gary Thurston  
Marlee Jones  
May 6 Clint Jacobson  
Dick Ruden  
May 8 Austin Jones  
Dale Kramer  
John Lowary  
Rob Wanous  
May 9 Gabbie Kramer  
May 11 Audrey Padfield  
May 13 Doris Strom  
May 14 Linda Johnson  
Pam Rix

May 15 Charlotte Lange

May 18 Jean Walter

May 19 John Erickson

May 20 Robert Hood

May 21 Alex Brandt

Cody Hanson

May 25 Jon Voss

JR Johnson

May 28 Wanda Zoellner

May 29 Clare Brotherton

DeLoris Knoll

May 30 Hazel McKittrick

Kami Lipp

### Groton Anniversaries

May 2 Dale & Michelle Kramer

May 5 Tony & Brenda Madsen

May 10 John & Anita Lowary

May 12 Jack & Maggie Oliver

May 15 Clarence & Ida Hannon

May 17 Cliff & Carna Pray

May 20 Tom & Kami Lipp

May 27 Luverne & Carol Strom

May 29 Gary & Anita Voss

### Conde Birthday's

May 3 Janette Imsland

May 7 Jane Worlie

May 8 Jim Patterson

May 10 Marion Jensen

May 12 Diane Taylor

May 16 Dwight Lyren

May 25 Greg Bonn

May 27 Malcolm Knoll

### Conde Anniversaries

May 7 Eric & Ann Menzia

May 25 Floyd & Carol Smith

May 27 Arvon & Diane Taylor

May 28 Grant & Janice Hanson

May 30 Curtis & Cindy Haskell



### Giving Our Hearts



### Groton UMW May 21 2 PM Tea Party on Wheels

Hostesses are Membership & Nurture Outreach  
Marj Townsend  
Pat Dahlquist  
Kelli Hanson

Come and Join the  
Fun and Visiting!



## Groton UMW May Meeting

The Groton unit of United Methodist Women convened Wednesday evening at the church. President Jolene Townsend presided. Linda Thurston, Aberdeen, read Luke 12:31 and a meditation, "God's Gift of Time and Love" from the Devotions Booklet. The PURPOSE was recited in unison.

JoAnn Krueger, social action coordinator, gave a second lesson on the social action issues being addressed by United Methodist women, which included everyone's being encouraged to vote in the upcoming elections, recycling, paper over plastic and "going green" as some of the issues.

Shirley Voeltz of Big Stone City, Groton's shepherdess, made her visit to the unit and addressed the group. She said there is an urgent need to have prepared kits, flood buckets etc. sent now. The Saeger-Brown warehouse is running low. The kits will be taken to the church annual conference meeting in June in Fargo, N.D.

Susan Odland reported that caramel rolls will be taken to the Elementary School for Teacher Appreciation Week. Conde's Friendship Night will be on April 30th at 6:30 p.m. Groton ladies will car-pool from the church at 6:00 p.m.

Focus Day will be Saturday, April 19th, at North Highland Church in Aberdeen. Jolene Townsend, Gloria Pharis, Twila Ruden, Clare Brotherton, Linda Thurston and JoAnn Krueger plan to attend.

Mary Swisher volunteered to serve coffee at the Golden Living Center on Mothers' Day when Pastor Jan has the worship service there.

Plans for the May Breakfast were reviewed. Gloria and Jolene are general chairpersons and Jolene is in charge of the program which will include a speaker, Andrew Miller, educational heart director at Avera St. Luke's Hospital, and a style show Marge Overacker and JoAnn Krueger are in charge of decorations with Rose Tewksbury, Pat Dahlquist and Gloria in charge of the kitchen. Sharon Wheeting will direct the dining room setup and Doris Zoellner will make the coffee. Twila Ruden and Kay Brandt are in charge of advertising.

Joy Walter and DeLoris Knoll served a tasty lunch at the close of the meeting.

The next meeting will be the Tea Party on Wheels with Marjory Townsend, chairman, and other members of the Membership and Nurture committee as hostesses.

## Service, please

A little girl who went fishing with her dad gave up after about 10 minutes of holding her pole. "Dad, I'm quitting," she said. "I'm not being waited on by any fish."

The child's comments may have been echoed by the frustrated disciples in John 21:1-14, NRSV. The resurrected Christ stood on a beach and called to seven of his friends: "You have no fish, have you?"

They replied, "No."

Jesus told his friends to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. Then they caught so many fish that they couldn't lift them into the boat. They had to drag the net to shore to count their catch.

Isn't it amazing what divine guidance can do for us?



What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God?"

*Micah 6:8b,  
NRSV*



## Peace with Justice Sunday—May 18th

How would you spend \$55,000? If you ask United Methodism's General Board of Church and Society, you might hear an answer like this: "We would teach young people about peace building, aid children living in poverty and promote health-care reform." During a recent meeting, the board approved 16 grants, exceeding \$55,000 and received through the annual Peace with Justice Special Sunday offerings.

Harbor House Crisis Shelter, a health and welfare ministry in my conference, was awarded a \$5,000 grant. This mission responds to the growing number of homeless mothers and children. The grant is being used for case management, educational materials and community awareness—all in an effort to reach out to what some may consider "the lost, the least and the last."

Another recipient in my conference is the Wisconsin Council of Churches as it builds a grassroots movement to help educate persons about the possibilities of

health-insurance reform. In my state alone, more than 500,000 persons are uninsured, with thousands under-insured. Another venture of my conference's board of church and society involved two seminars to teach youth and adults healthier approaches to conflict, especially recognizing and responding to bullying in our schools. Did you realize 50 percent of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering goes for projects in the United States and other countries and half remains in your conference for peace-making ministries and programs? That's money that stretches across the street and around the world!

Thank you for sharing these stories with your church family and providing an opportunity for people to support Peace with Justice programs. May we do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God as we all do peace-making ministries. --The Rev. Jane Follmer Zekoff, former director of ministry and outreach, Wisconsin Conference



## Sewing kits

3 yards of cotton or cotton-blend, solid color or print fabric (must be 3 yards of uncut fabric), 1 pair of sewing scissors, 1 package of needles, 1 spool of thread, 5-8 matching buttons. Monetary Donations may also be given.



## Baptism Blessings

Skylar Kramer  
(above) Apr 20th  
And  
Gage Sippel (below)  
Apr 27th



## The "M" word

During a science lesson, a second-grade teacher demonstrated how a magnet can pick up metal objects such as nails and screws.

Afterward, she said, "My name begins with the letter 'm.' I pick up things with my power. What am I?"

A boy quickly answered, "You're a mother!"



To have grown  
wise and kind is  
real success."

—Anonymous

"There is nothing  
harder than the  
softness of indif-  
ference."

—Juan Montalvo

## Pentecost, the church's birthday

Pentecost was originally a Jewish harvest festival when the first fruits of crops were given as offerings to God. On the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers. They were filled with power and love, thus empowering them to witness to God's actions in Christ to all who were nearby. Some 3,000 people responded to their claims that Christ was Lord and Savior of mankind.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' first followers on the day of Pentecost is often called the Church's birthday. You can read the entire story in Acts 2.



**Conde UMW  
May 14 at 2 PM**  
Program is Financial  
Interp "The Icing on  
the Cake" with  
Leader Betty Taylor  
Hostess Betty Jensen

**Small Group**  
May 7th  
Leader Betty Taylor  
Hostess Donna  
Hearnen

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

## Conde UMW May Meeting

CONDE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MET at the church at 2:00 PM on April 16th. Donna Hearnen presented the lesson as a preparation to the General Conference of our church. Discussions centered on the purpose, attendance, actions to be taken, and how the meeting would affect our local church. Donna was assisted by Patty Knoll, Lois Trapp and Betty Taylor.

Cards were sent to Arlene Peterson and Fern McPartland. Treasurer's report was given by Jane Worlie.

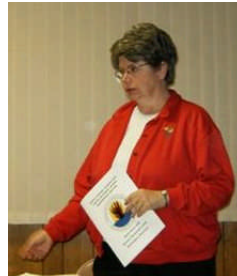
During the Conde all school reunion the last of June, the church will be open on Saturday afternoon for those who wish to relax and have a light lunch. Jane Worlie will be in charge of this afternoon.

We were fortunate to have our shep-

herdess, Kay Harr, in attendance for the afternoon. She told of the Jurisdictional Meeting and the Core Planning Group. Kay also lifted up the programs of the organization including Reading List and School of Christian Mission scheduled for July at Dakota Wesleyan University. We were also encouraged to give to our Pledge as we would give to World Thank Offering. The Conference Resource Library is also an excellent source for lesson helps.

Cindy Smith was hostess for the afternoon.

We will meet May 14 at 2:00 PM for the lesson in Financial Interpretation "The Icing on the Cake" by Betty Taylor. Betty Jensen is hostess for the day.



## Missions Projects for Annual Conference

The Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty have asked for some special requests "Tools and Infants/Children"

These gifts will help our conference missionaries and VIM teams to better serve both the Tree of Life and Spirit Lake Ministry Center.

There are needs that all the groups in the church can meet. There will be posters in your church of donations to be brought to Annual Conference in June.

Tools are needed at both sites; infants and children's clothing is also needed.

Also, The Board of Global Ministries are asking that a special offering be taken

in churches for UMCOR. Sager Brown has received fewer kits and the need is greater. Because of this, they are asking for completed kits: LAYETTES, Sewing, School, Health or Bedding be brought to Annual Conference and they will be delivered directly to Sager Brown. These may be included in the total number of kits that you will be making during the year.

Those attending Annual Conference from our churches are Marva Gellhaus, Mary Hayenga, Jolene Townsend and Betty Taylor. Any one will be happy to take these kits for you. Thank you.





## A Mother of Noble Character

In Proverbs 31 (NIV), God provides the best example of a godly woman. Write the number of the sentence in the space next to the character quality it best describes.

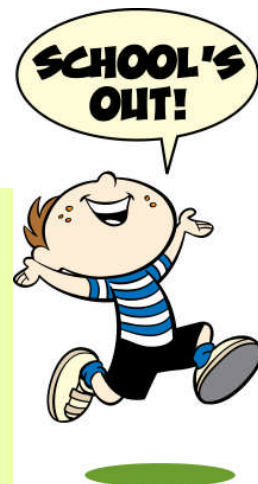
- 1 "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies" (v. 10).
- 2 "She brings [her husband] good, not harm, all the days of her life" (v. 12).
- 3 "She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands" (v. 13).
- 4 "She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks" (v. 17).
- 5 "She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy" (v. 20).
- 6 "When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet" (v. 21).
- 7 "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (v. 30).

___ Caring	___ Godly	___ Prepared
___ Hardworking	___ Hearty	___ Priceless
	___ Kind	

Answers: 1. priceless, 2. kind, 3. hardworking, 4. hearty, 5. caring, 6. prepared, 7. godly



**Groton UMYF**  
**Bowling Night—Year End**  
**May 7th**  
**6:30-8:00PM**  
**Meet at the Bowling Alley**



*Sunday School*  
**SCHEDULE**

### Groton

#### **May**

4-SS

11-SS & Sing in Church  
 (Mother's Day)

Last Day of Sunday School

### **VBS Schedule**

May 19-23

6:30-8:00 PM. Mon-Thur  
 6:00 PM Fri with Potluck  
 and Program for entire  
 church. All are welcome.





# MEMORIAL DAY



## A poem for Memorial Day

Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave.  
Gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind;  
Quietly they go, the intelligent, the witty, the brave.  
I know. But I do not approve. And I am not resigned.

—Edna St. Vincent Millay, “Dirge Without Music”

**Cub Scouts Pack Meeting in April. They had boat races! Created birdhouses and made posters!**



# A HEART FOR Mom

Show Mom how much you appreciate all she does for you with this "heartfelt" craft. Give it to her on Mother's Day.

## What you need:

- Floral stem wire
- Dried cranberries (about 100, depending on the wire's length)
- Pliers
- Decorative ribbon (about 12 inches for each craft)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Hole punch
- Crayons or markers

## What you do:

1. With an adult's help, thread cranberries, one at a time with no space between them, onto the straight wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape.
3. With pliers, twist the wire together at the top of the heart.
4. Tie ribbon to make a loop atop the heart (so your mom can hang it up).
5. Fold the paper into a card, and write a message of love and gratitude to your mom. You might want to add a verse from Proverbs 31 that best describes her.
6. Punch a hole in the card. Attach it to the ribbon that's tied to the heart.

## Don't look back

Looking back can sometimes bring trouble. A Sunday school teacher was telling about Lot's wife, who looked back toward Sodom and Gomorrah and turned into a pillar of salt.

Prompted by those words, a boy said, "My mom was driving one day and suddenly looked back, too. She turned into a telephone pole."



## When a house is a home

A house is a home when it is infused with love, when there is acceptance that never wavers, and where there is always food for the mind, for the spirit, for the body and for those in need. Is your abode a house or a home?

## Moms' Day Out!



**Groton Mission  
Statement  
“Enriching  
Spiritual lives  
through  
Christ.”**

## Groton April Ad Council Meeting

**Finance:** A debit and credit card for the church has been secured as a cost savings measure for paying bills on line and as a more efficient method for committee members to purchase needed items. This should eliminate a number of reimbursement checks being written.

**Trustees:** This group is still working on arranging for shortened pews to allow room for wheel chairs in the sanctuary. The list of items needing repair from the parsonage walkthrough will be reviewed prior to the next board meeting.

**Nurture:** It was reported that the annual Bible School session would be held from May 19 – 23. Also this group will be hosting our graduating seniors on May 11.

**Outreach:** Easter baskets and Ken's gift certificates were delivered this year by

Carna & Cliff Pray and JoAnn & Richard Krueger on March 16.

**UMW:** Jolene Townsend reported that the plans for the annual May Breakfast on May 7 are well underway. She also stated that the Groton UMW would host the Conde UMW on April 30 for Friendship Night. On April 19 a group of women plan to attend Focus Day at the Aberdeen North Highland church. The UWM has hosted or have plans to host a number of blessing showers at our church.

**Youth Fellowship:** Lori Seelye reported that a pizza & pool party is planned in Aberdeen on April 11. There will be a final meeting of this group on May 7 at the Jungle Lanes for a bowling party and they are planning a something special for Pastor Jan at that time.

## On giving and loving

The truth comes so often in simple sentences. For example, isn't it true that a person can give without real love or sympathy (maybe to impress others, for example) but one simply cannot love without giving? In fact, one of the clues to how much a person loves is how much he or she gives in terms of time, talent, friendship, service, encouragement and prayers on behalf of others.

### Groton Stewardship Report April 2008

Average Wkly  
Giving  
\$1,341

Needed Weekly to  
Meet Church Needs  
\$1,733

Average Weekly  
Attendance  
68

Total Building Fund  
Offerings  
\$190

## Groton June Family Committee

**Marjorie & Roger Overacker**

**Mendy & James Jones**

**Bob & Carolyn Snyder**

Melissa & Neil Gilbert

Chris & Sherwin Nyberg

John & Meri Erickson, Evan, Sydney

Marva & Lon Gellhaus

Ann Rix

Laurel & Monte McNickel, Murdock

Florrann Norris

Jesse & Jaymie Overacker

Audrey Miller, Martha

Jennifer Miller

Diann & Brad Morehouse, Desiree

Jack Oliver

Nathan & Kate Zeeb

### Honorary Members

- Dick & Gert Ruden
- Eunice Sperry
- Gerald Rix

### Extra Responsibilities

- Mow the Lawn Weekly
- Clean Chapel & Library
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Optional)
- June 1st Change altar cloths to white and hang communion banners this Sunday Only
- June 8th change the altar cloths to green and hang monthly banners





May 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

- May 4 Groton Blessings Shower/Baptism for Emerlee Jones
- May 5 PPRC at Groton 7 PM
- May 7 Groton UMYF Bowling Year End Night 6:30
- May 7 Groton UMC May Breakfast 11:30 & 1:15
- May 7 Conde Small Group
- May 11 Groton Graduates honored Coffee Hour & Church
- May 11 Mother's Day—Honoring all Mother's
- May 11 Groton Sunday School Sings in Church
- May 14 Groton Ad Council 7 PM
- May 14 Conde UMW at 2 PM
- May 16 Cub Scout Picnic in the Park 6:30 pm
- May 21 Groton UMW Tea Party on Wheels
- May 19-23 Groton Bible School
- May 23 Groton Bible School Program/Potluck 6 PM
- May 25 Conde World Hunger Sunday
- Jun 2 Conde serving "The Banquet"
- Jun 28 Open House Bridal Shower for Angela Brandt, bride-to-be of Perryn Dobbins on July 26. Call Jolene if you can help.