

"God uses every small act of love for larger purposes."

## A Mother's Wish

Since arriving in Groton almost a year ago I have met several wonderful people and gotten involved in many community activities, mostly focusing on the local school district. One of the wonderful people I met was Brenda Harms, who worked as bus driver and full-time study hall supervisor. I also knew Brenda through her son, Garrett, playing on the boy's basketball team. Even though the Harms do not attend the local United Methodist Church, I have enjoyed the privilege of getting to know them.

Last November I registered for the National Conference on Preaching to be held a couple of weeks ago. I learned in December the conference was cancelled which left me with a "free week" in April as well as some "professional clergy funds" which I needed to spend or risk losing them. I checked for other conferences to attend but could find nothing except events during the summer in places like Florida or California. Who wants to go there in the summer? Do people who plan these events know you actually go north in the summer, not south?

I was sitting with a family from the church watching a basketball game in January contemplating my "cancelled conference situation" when I suddenly had the thought, "Why don't I take some kids for a trip?" I turned to the parents in this family and asked, "What college would your son like to visit?" After explaining myself, they said he would love to

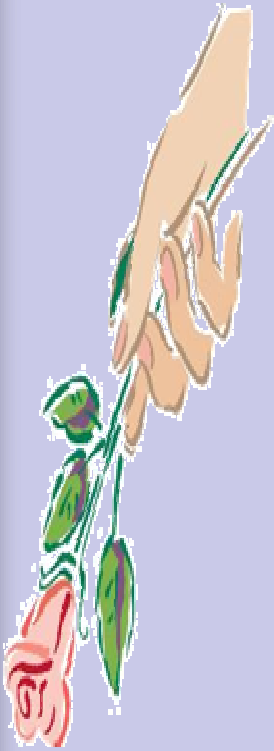
see Duke University. I thought, "Perfect! A United Methodist affiliated school!" I then asked if there were friends he might like to bring along and to my great surprise, Garrett was mentioned. I told these parents to keep everything "under wraps" until I checked with the parents of the kids that were mentioned as well as did the research on the trip. Mike and Brenda Harms, Garrett's parents, were thrilled, a little stunned, and more than happy for Garrett to accompany me and three other fine young gentlemen on the trip. Brenda even told me this would be Garrett's first airplane ride.

We are just ending our trip to Duke and central North Carolina. The guys learned it was tough to get into Duke (out of 24,000 applicants in 2009, Duke selects only 1,600 for the 2009 freshman class). But they loved the campus, especially the basketball arena and being surprised by a few of the actual Duke basketball players showing up unexpectedly really topped off the trip. When asked the question if Duke considers various representation of various areas of the country (i.e. South Dakota) when evaluating their many applicants, the Associate Director of Admissions looked straight at our guys from Groton and said, "Yes, we would love to have people from South Dakota." That counts as a successful trip!

This evening at our hotel in Durham, NC the guys were doing a lot of texting and talking on their cell phones. I noticed Garrett texting



*A Rose for Mom*



### A Mother's Wish... Continued.

someone so I peaked over his shoulder. I'm not sure who it was but he was telling someone about his experiences today. Every time I spoke to Brenda Harms about this trip she talked about how excited Garrett was and how happy she was for him to explore Duke. She has many high and well-justified hopes for her son. He's a talented young man. I know she would be excited by the question of how to finance a Duke education Garrett asked over the evening meal tonight.

Brenda Harms died in February. It was a shock and a surprise to many of us who knew her and cared about her. I wish I could have known

Brenda longer. Her son said something to me on his first airplane ride last Thursday morning that I'll never forget and I can't share (I want to honor his privacy.) but I did tell him I knew his mother was proud of him and wants the best for him—no matter if that leads him to Duke University or not.

Approaching this Mother's Day 2009, I hope everyone has a chance to say, "I love you" to their mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and any others who acted as our mother in our lifetime.

Pastor Rob Moorlach

**Tody Clark Dobbins born April 14th to Perryn & Angela Dobbins. Weighed 8 lbs 3 ozs and 21 inches long. He joins brother Jaden, age 2. Grandparents are Ben & Kay Brandt.**



**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.

## Our Church Celebrations

Groton Church

May 1 Don Bartz

May 2 Dale & Michelle Kramer  
Hannah Luecke  
Eugene Luce

May 3 Kim Weber (TURNS 50!!)

May 4 Evan Erickson

Tom Strom  
Desiree Morehouse

May 5 Gary Thurston

Marlee Jones  
Tony & Brenda Madsen

May 6 Clint Jacobson

Dick Ruden

May 7 Gabbie Kramer

May 8 Austin Jones

Dale Kramer  
John Lowary  
Rob Wanous



May 10 John & Anita Lowary

May 11 Audrey Padfield

May 12 Jack & Maggie Oliver

May 13 Doris Strom

May 14 Linda Johnson  
Pam Rix

May 15 Charlotte Lange

Clarence & Ida Hannon

May 17 Cliff & Carna Pray

May 18 Jean Walter

May 19 John Erickson

May 20 Robert Hood

Tom & Kami Lipp

May 21 Alex Brandt

Cody Hanson

May 22 Larry Schnaidt

May 25 Jon Voss

JR Johnson

May 26 Drake Peterson

May 27 Luverne & Carol Strom

May 28 Wanda Zoellner

May 29 Clare Brotherton  
DeLoris Knoll

Gary & Anita Voss

May 30 Hazel McKittrick

Kami Lipp

Conde Church

May 3 Janette Imsland

May 7 Eric & Ann Menzia

Jane Worlie

May 10 Marion Jensen

May 11 Tim Geist

May 12 Diane Taylor

May 16 Dwight Lyren

May 25 Greg Bonn  
Floyd & Carol Smith

May 27 Malcolm Knoll

Arvon & Diane Taylor

May 28 Grant & Janice Hanson

May 30 Curtis & Cindy Haskell



## Dick Ruden Birthday Celebration

May 3rd  
during coffee hour  
Come Help  
Celebrate!

Turns 90 on May 6th

Or mail greetings to:  
3 East 11th Ave  
Groton, SD 57445



## Groton UMW May Breakfast

## Groton UMW May Breakfast

The annual May Breakfast will be held Wednesday, May 6th with serving times of 11:30 AM and 1:15 PM. The cost will be \$7.50 per plate. Kelly Clark will give a program entitled "Purse-onality." Reservations may be called to Clare Brotherton, 397-8177 or DeLoris Knoll, 397-2681.

UMW needs 9X13 pans with covers by May 4th. If you have one that can be borrowed, thank you.

Have an unusual purse, or evening bag with pizzazz we can use at the May Breakfast? Put your name in the purse so we can return afterwards. Have to the church by May 3rd. Thank you.







## National Day of Prayer

### Week of Prayer Fest

Kick-off Service at Groton UMC on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 PM. Features National Day of Prayer Candlelight Service at Groton City Park on Thursday and Closing Service on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at Emmanuel Lutheran. Sign-up sheets for prayer times throughout the week will soon be available.

# Weddings

THIS MONTH

### Wedding Blessings Shower

Randy Padfield &  
Rebecca Hubbs  
During coffee hour after Church  
on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Registered at  
Wal-Mart and Target.  
A May 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding is being  
planned in our church.

**Open House Bridal Shower  
for Chelsey Luecke from 9 -  
11 am at the Groton UMC on  
May 30<sup>th</sup>. Chelsey will be  
marrying Justin Wolthuizen  
on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Brookings.**

### An unforgettable date

A woman told her husband, George, that she wanted him to take another woman on a date. "I love you," she said, "but the woman I have in mind loves you, too, and needs to spend some time with you. It's your mother."

Dutifully, George called his mom and made a date. For the special evening, she chose the dress she'd worn to the last anniversary she and her late husband had celebrated. Mother and son enjoyed chatting so much that they missed their movie. Both left feeling joyous and fulfilled.

Sadly, George's mother died only a few days after their date. He was so happy he'd been able to spend that special time with her.

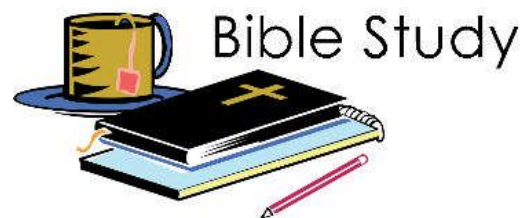
Right before she died, George's mother sent him this note: "Enclosed are two prepaid tickets for you to have dinner where we had such a pleasant evening together. You'll never know what that night meant for me. I love you, Son."

### Memorial Day

Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It's now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.

Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, "Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared."



Groton Tuesday AM Bible Study will soon be starting a new study on Esther this month. If you wish to join us, please let Kay Brandt know and she will make sure you get a book.





How's Your Heart director and seeking a heart replacement, Patty Knoll



Donna Hearnen's cold heart keeps her seeking warmer clothes and surroundings in How's Your Heart



Betty Geist has a heavy heart with chains in How's Your Heart?



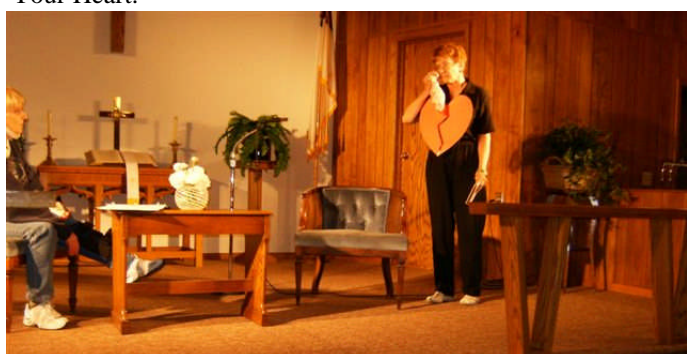
Having a Jarvie 7 mechanical heart is quite burdensome to Jane Worlie in How's Your Heart.



Faint Heart of Wilma Butler leads to complications in How's Your Heart.



Pat Siefken offers the solution to the problem, to everyone's satisfaction, as the True Heart in How's Your Heart?



Donna Walter has a Broken Heart due to many people and happenings in her life in How's Your Heart



The starring cast in How's Your Heart?



## Conde Special Mission Recognition

Donna Hearnen received her Special Mission Recognition at the last meeting of the Conde United Methodist Women. Each year a member is honored for the outstanding work contributed to the unit and to the church. Donna is president of the UMW and also Mission Chairperson in the church, leading in gathering contributions for mission projects. Jane Worlie, unit treasurer is shown presenting the pin to Donna.



### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

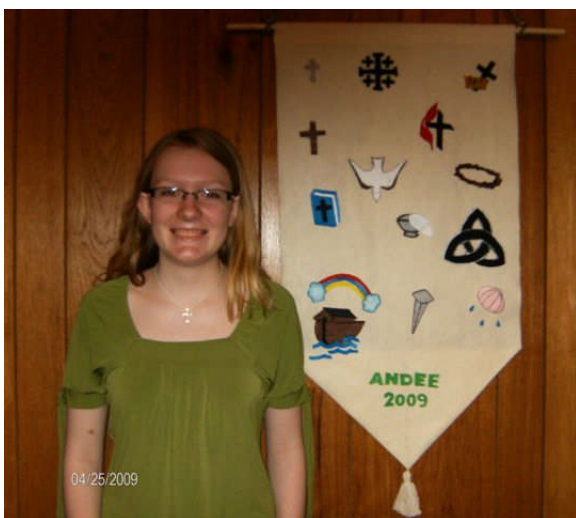
**"The Conde United Methodist Church is seeking to satisfy the spiritual and physical needs of all."**

### Conde Habitat for Humanity Birthday Donation

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



Sympathies to the family of Glenna McKnight who passed away April 12th in Syracuse, New York



**Conde Church welcomed Andee Geist into membership on April 19. Andee is shown with the banner she made for her confirmation.**



## Groton UMW April

The Groton Unit of UMW met April 18, 2009 at 2:00 PM. Our sheppardess Marge Alwin from Watertown was introduced. Marge praised the Groton Unit on our last year's accomplishments, of the Five Star Unit and being a 3 Flame Unit. She discussed the School of Christian Missions to be held at Mitchell July 9-12, it is for 4 days, Thurs - Sat. only. There is not a weekend school anymore. The 3 studies are "Food, Faith," "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan," and "Native American Survival." She explained a new way we can use the prayer calendar. There is a New Opportunities Grant of \$1000 given to a member going back to school. She said we could bring our box of Undies either to the Annual Meeting in Madison Sept 12 or to the Conference meeting at North Highland in Aberdeen October. And she explained the officers bank and how much the District Conference need new officer possibilities.

Pres Jolene Townsend opened the business meeting with Joy Walter leading the Devotions reading from John 15 and the Purpose was recited. The minutes of the last meeting were approved after corrections. The Treasurer Clare Brotherton gave her report.

Correspondence: A thank you was

read from the Groton Area Elementary School for the 3 books they received for their library with our donation. A thank you was read from Kim Weber for her recognition pin she received and from the Salvation Army for our gift to them. We also received a letter from the Booster Pac that sponsors a post-prom party needing a donation.

The skit our unit was asked to do at Focus Days in Webster this Sat, April 18, was presented by Jolene T, Marlys Rodman, Mary Swisher, and Gert Ruden.

Joys & Concerns: It was a pleasure to have a guest LeAnn Alwin, daughter-in-law of our shepherdess Marge Alwin and daughter of Audrey Padfield. Kay Brandt showed pictures of her new grandson, Toby Clark Dobbins born April 14 to Angela & Perryn Dobbins.

Old Business: Kay had the May Breakfast signs ready to be posted around town.

New Business: There was a discussion on the post-prom, Mary Swisher made the motion to donate \$25 to them. It was seconded by Audrey Thurston. Motion carried. The next meeting will be the "Tea Party on Wheels," Hostesses are the members of the Membership: Pat Dahlquist, Kelli Hanson and Marj Townsend.

Pat Dahlquist and Carol Strom served lunch to the members and two guests present.

Gloria Pharis,  
Secretary



**Groton UMW May  
Meeting  
May 20th at 2 PM  
Tea Party on  
Wheels  
Hostesses are Pat  
Dahlquist, Kelli  
Hanson, and Marj  
Townsend.**



## Christmas Rummage

Groton UMW will be selling new and used (including Christmas Crafts) Christmas Decorations and Items during the Groton City Fall Rummage Sale. Be Cleaning and Saving or Creating for this project.



## Groton VBS

VBS JUNE 1-4, 2009. Theme is Camp E.D.G.E. VBS will take a Trek to the Promised Land, Bethlehem, Pharisee's house, The Upper Room, and to Galilee. We will start our adventure at 5:30pm and end around 8:30pm. Each night we will be serving a light meal. Thursday, June 4th we will be having a POTLUCK for the whole church! The Potluck will begin at 5:30 with a short program by the children following supper. Ages for attending VBS is 3 years - 6th grade. Everyone is Invited!

## Groton Sunday School May

Children sing Sunday, May 10 for Mothers day

Last day of Sunday school is Sunday, May 10th.

Mother's Day craft will be done Sunday, May 3rd in Sunday School.




**GRADUATES honored Sunday, May 10th. Cody Hanson, Evan Erickson, and Martha Miller**

## End Of Year Bash for Groton UMYF

At the Parsonage  
May 13th at 6:30 pm  
Supper provided  
Bring your Wii Games

The April Committee would like to thank the UMYF for helping on Easter Morning. We enjoyed working with you!



# A legacy of faith

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy was influenced by his grandmother and mother.

Complete 2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowel.

**VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u**

“  <sub>3</sub> h  <sub>1</sub> v  <sub>2</sub> b  <sub>2</sub>   <sub>2</sub> n r  <sub>2</sub> m  <sub>3</sub> nd  <sub>2</sub> d   <sub>4</sub> f

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n  <sub>4</sub> w l  <sub>3</sub> v  <sub>2</sub> s   <sub>3</sub> n y  <sub>4</sub>   <sub>5</sub>   <sub>1</sub> ls  <sub>4</sub>.”

2 TIMOTHY 1:5 (NIV)

Answer: “I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”





## Swine Flu, Hygiene, and Holy Communion

by Daniel Benedict and Taylor Burton-Edwards

The high profile of the Swine Flu outbreak has provoked new concerns about contact with people in public settings. In stadiums, airports, and other settings where we don't know who has been there or where they have traveled, there looms a question of what exposure to epidemic diseases we might have. It is natural that church leaders and members are wondering about the risk of participating in worship, including hand-shaking, hugging, and sharing the bread and cup of Holy Communion.

Here we want to provide reliable resources to help you decide how to handle concerns about the spread of Swine Flu where you worship.

### Several Links

The Centers for Disease Control has a dedicated page with specific information and links regarding Swine Flu. In states and major metropolitan areas within those states with higher counts for any epidemic, it stands to reason that greater precaution and stress on preventative measures would be in order. The CDC recommends covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze, using a disposable tissue then disposing of it immediately, regular hand washing (10-15 seconds with liquid soap, drained bar soap, or an alcohol-based hand cleaner), and not touching your eyes, nose or mouth as the basic means of preventing any spread.

**"Clean Hands and Pure Hearts: Hygiene and Holy Communion"** -- A basic article on steps to take in creating both the perception and the fact of good hygiene in Holy Communion.

**Holy Communion and Concerns about Infection** -- Links to help pastors and congregation think about eucharistic health issues that deserve careful and compassionate pastoral, theological, and sacramental response.

**Holy Communion and Infection Risks: An Age-old Concern** -- This article by a microbiologist shows, through scientific studies, that receiving Holy Communion does not increase one's illness rate when compared to the general population that does not take Communion. Although it does not raise the issue of Swine Flu specifically, it is a useful piece in considering what your congregation's attitude and practices will be.

### Taking a Broad and Prudent Approach

So what can you do that is proactive and prudent? What might such an approach look like? First, anticipate that there are a number of people who already have concerns about communicable disease and Holy Communion. And assume that some in the congregation are concerned about Swine Flu, although they may have little clear and trustworthy information about the possible connections between worship practices and transmission.

Second, if Swine Flu is present where you are, issue **today** the same advice that New York City and other municipalities are issuing. Get the word out in your congregation that if folks have a sore throat, fever or other flu symptoms, **they should not come to worship!**

Third, talk with physicians and other health care workers in your congregation. Let them know you intend to follow the CDC's recommendations as you lead worship and ask for any input they may have about how you and your worship leaders should do that.

Fourth, take this occasion as a prompting to institute (if you have not already done so) practices of preparing and serving Holy Communion that are consistent with the best epidemiological information available. (See Holy Communion and Infection Risks.) In consultation with your worship team/commission, implement these kinds of changes, asking all who handle the elements to thoroughly wash their hands first (including yourself!) and to administer the bread rather than having partakers tear their own piece. (See *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion* for more detail.)

Fifth, remember that the most likely forms of transmission are by skin to skin contact. This can occur while shaking hands, hugging, or passing the peace. These are common, everyday human interactions, and normal parts of worship in many traditions. Avoiding all forms of touch may be a counterproductive over-reaction where the Swine Flu is not spreading. In places where it is, consider encouraging people to nod their heads, or bow toward one another, or offer other signs of peace and greeting that do not require skin to skin contact.

Finally, consider writing a brief article for the church newsletter or website encour-

aging the CDC recommendations as good practices for worship and daily life, especially during times and in places where the Swine Flu is spreading.

### Conclusion

Swine Flu, like SARS and Bird Flu before it, will come and go. The specific scares will pass; but now is a good time, before this pandemic (or whatever the next pandemic may be) reaches you for churches to do a checkup on their worship practices and gain some important factual data about healthy practices to inform how you do what you do.

Certainly the conclusion we come to should not be that being together is dangerous or that Communion should be suspended or relegated to infrequent celebration. After all, receiving Communion has a much lower risk of spreading infection than shaking hands does! The conclusion should be that God calls us together to be the body of Christ around Word and Table and that we can do so with confidence that we will taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

[http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item\\_id=7908](http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=7908)

Above website has more links.

South Dakota has no confirmed cases of swine flu nor do any immediate areas around us at this time of publishing. It is always a good practice to be washing our hands no matter what we are doing.

**Chocolate Raspberry/Apricot Crumb Bars (Joyce Walter)**

1 cup (2 sticks) butter soften  
 2 cups flour  
 1/2 cup light brown sugar  
 1/4 teaspoon salt  
 12 oz package semi-sweet chocolate chips divided  
 14 oz can sweetened condensed milk  
 1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)  
 1/3 cup raspberry or apricot jam (I used much more and I warmed it in the microwave)

Preheat oven 350. Beat butter until

creamy. Beat in flour, sugar and salt well. With floured fingers, press 2 cups crumb mixture onto bottom of a greased 9X13 pan; reserve remaining mixture. Bake for 10 to 12 mins. or until golden brown. Combine 1 cup morsels and condensed milk and melt over low heat till smooth. spread over hot crust. Stir nuts into reserved crumb mixture; sprinkle over chocolate filling. Drop jam over crumbs, sprinkle remaining morsels. Bake 25 to 30 mins. cool completely.



“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’”  
 —Erma Bombeck

**Sunrise Service Egg Bake Favorite (Twila Ruden)**

18 slices bread, cubed (remove crusts)  
 1 lb ham cubed  
 1 can sliced mushrooms  
 1 lb cheese shredded  
 6 eggs  
 3 cups milk  
 1/2 tsp mustard  
 1/2 cup margarine, melted  
 1 cup crushed cornflakes

Place half cubed bread in 9X13 pan (large). Layer the ham, mushrooms, and half the cheese. Then rest of bread cubes. Beat 6 eggs and combine with the milk and mustard. Pour evenly over the dish. Then add rest of cheese and refrigerate overnight. In morning, mix melted margarine and corn flakes and sprinkle over the top. Bake at 350 degrees for 60 minutes.



### Groton Ad Council Notes - April

Pastor Rob shared news that Carna Atherton-Pray had been elected as one of the Lay delegates to the Annual Conference.

Insurance coverage for the church will be reviewed to assure that it is adequate.

The board approved having Don Walter act as lawn mowing coordinator. Monthly work groups will contact him with their mowing schedule. Don has also had the churches mower checked over and made ready for the season.

The UMW continues with many activities including annual training in Webster in April; the May Breakfast; sponsoring wedding and baby blessing showers; and plans for helping with vacation Bible school.

### Summer Lawn Care

Ad Board approved Don Walter to be the lawn mowing coordinator. Monthly committee's please call Don and give him your mowing schedules.

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



### Groton Family Committee - June

Josh & Meri Atherton

Kelli & Lars Hanson, Cody, Dylan

Lynette & Terry Furman, Sam

Karla & Russell Davidson, Michaela Oleson, Kristopher Oleson

Alan & Vicki Strom

Bob & Carolyn Snyder

Francine & Marc Sippel

Jeanne Wanous

Pernell & Noella Graf

Kevin Pharis

Anita & Gary Voss

John Padfield

Derick Furman

Brent & Jessica Morehouse

#### Honorary Members

- Audrey Padfield
- Bob & Marvel Johnson
- Audrey Thurston
- Clare Brotherton
- Herron Smith

#### June Extra Responsibilities

- Mow the Lawn Weekly
- Clean Chapel and Library
- June 7th change the altar cloths to white and hang communion banners this Sunday only - Trinity Sunday
- June 14th change the altar cloths to green and hang monthly banners.



#### June 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				





May 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						

If you received this in the mail and are able to pick it up at the church or receive through email, please contact Kay 397-8389



## Our Church Happenings

- May 3 Wedding Blessings Shower for Randy Padfield & Rebecca Hubbs during Coffee Hour
- May 3 Prayer Fest Kick-Off at Groton UMC at 2 PM
- May 4 Groton UMW needs your pans and purses to the church to borrow for May Breakfast
- May 6 Groton UMW May Breakfast
- May 7 National Day of Prayer Candle Light Service at City Park
- May 10 Prayer Fest Closing Service at ELCA
- May 10 Groton Graduates Honored
- May 10 Mother's Day & Sunday School Singing in Church
- May 13 Groton UMYF at Pastor Rob's House 6:30 pm
- May 13 Groton Ad Council 7 PM
- May 20 Groton UMW Tea Party on Wheels 2 PM
- May 30 Open House Bridal Shower for Chelsey Luecke from 9-11 am at Groton UMC. Marrying Justin Wolthuizen Jun 13 at Brookings.
- June 1-4 Groton VBS 5:30-8:30 pm
- Jun 4 All Church Potluck 5:30 with VBS program following.