

United Methodist Messenger

December 2010

Groton/Conde Parishes

Solitude

We struggle with loneliness. Don't we? We do struggle, especially when loneliness strikes during this time of year. The feeling is similar to the feeling that we get, when we leave our friends, whom we have met at a summer camp for the first time. Do you know the feeling? That sudden feeling of emptiness when all the pranks, excitement, fun and laughter comes to an end?

The real kicker comes, when loneliness is coupled with silence. Not only are we alone, but suddenly we are alone with our thoughts, our troubles; all the things that weigh us down.

The clicking of the clock, the fridge kicking on as well as the furnace, suddenly sounds that seem so mundane to us sticks out to us, like a sore thumb. And our thoughts wander to a place and time when perhaps we weren't so lonely, before we know it we are experiencing sadness. And if the sadness continues for a period of time we battle depression. We have a deep longing; we pine for emotional wholeness. Often times that void can only be fulfilled when the love and

support of community embraces us.

Friends, there is hope. In Luke 4:42 and Matthew 4:1-11 we see that Jesus himself actually sought out places where he could be alone. The disciplined life of a Christian treats being alone as a positive rather than a negative. The transition from loneliness to solitude is achieved when we add purpose to being alone. Christ's purpose for being alone, in these texts, allows him to develop a closer relationship to God which in turn gave him greater understanding or compassion, perhaps a Godly perspective on a troublesome issue. We suddenly recognize that we are never alone and that God is always with us. Emmanuel, God with us! We experience solitude but never the deep sadness that comes when we are lonely.

This is my prayer for all of you this Christmas season; that God will meet you in your places of loneliness and lead you to an understanding of how moments of solitude can be beneficial to your spiritual journey. We can cope with our feelings of loneliness by experiencing God in the midst of our solitude. Merry Christmas! And may God Bless You this holiday season!

Grace and Peace!



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the dinner a success, by donating pies or desserts, serving food, washing dishes, cleaning, by your monetary donations. Also a special thank you to Chuck Padfield and John Padfield for all the work in the kitchen, to the youth group for all your help. Thanks again and blessings to everyone.

The 2010 Men's Dinner Committee:

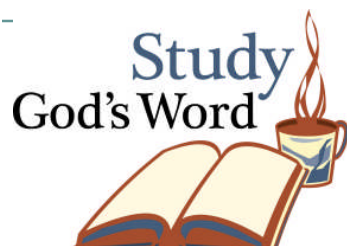
Alan Strom

Marc and Jane Johnson

Richard and JoAnn Krueger

Brad and Diann Morehouse

Did you know that area patients need nearly 1,200 units of blood every week? Donate blood at Groton's next blood drive Noon - 6 pm, Tuesday, Dec 7th at the Groton Legion clubroom. Call Kathy at 397-+8102 for an appointment. On behalf of the patients who will benefit, thank you. Kathy - Blood Drive coordinator



Women's Bible Study every Tuesday Morning at 10 AM

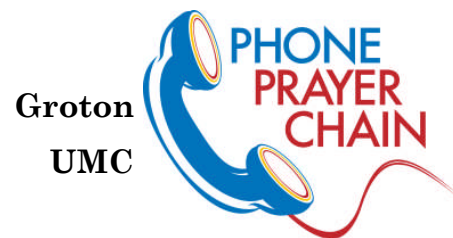
and

Men's Bible Study every Wednesday Morning

at 7 AM in Groton



The Broken Resolve band was enjoyed by all who attended.



- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| 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 |

*Currently 82 on email prayer chain. If you are not on this list or the email list, please notify the church office.

Groton 125th Planning

Save the Date! Anniversary Celebration Sunday is planned for September 18, 2011.

Committee is looking for Groton UMC Memorabilia and pictures for us at our celebration. Please leave items in specially marked box at back of church. Mark your name and indicate "Keep" or "Return" Jeanne Wanous and Marge Overacker

Cookbook will be created for our celebration next year. Kim Weber and Linda Thurston



Sympathies to the family of Joy Walter who passed away November 28th

Conde Mission Projects

On Nov 18, Donna Hearnen took several bags of children's gifts to North Highland Church to be added to the Shoe Box Christmas items that they had received from their congregation and also from some other churches. They sort through all the gifts and group them according to age, and in the process try to make the contents of each box equal. On a certain day in early December, these wrapped boxes will be delivered to the Enemy Swim Day School.

As a community mission project, the Administrative Board decided to make up some Christmas Gift bags or baskets to deliver to certain people living in Conde. This will include some families, people living alone or couples where one is home bound, and also some newcomers to the community. We hope to get donations of home made or purchased goodies, plus cash if persons don't have time to shop or bake. Last year we made up large boxes for seven families. The plan this year is to have more, but they will be smaller. It will depend

on the recipient as to what is included in the gift basket. Whatever is not covered by cash or food donations, will be purchased with church funds. The baskets will be assembled on Wednesday, December 15, but we would like the items before if possible. This is the season to share what we have beyond our own needs, but also to give of our time by visiting those persons who don't get out as often as they would like.

During December we will start collecting baby things for the Layette Kits. This will continue on throughout the year, as these things appear on sale at various times. The preferred age is 6-9 month sizes, but sweat shirts or sweaters can be as large as 12 months. Often the year size is what will appear on the clearance and sale racks. Each kit requires the following items. 6 cloth diapers, 2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits, 2 baby washcloths, 2 gowns or sleepers, 2 diaper pins, 1 sweater open in the front, and 2 receiving blankets

Conde Children's Community Library Receives UMW Grant

The Children's Library received a \$400 Love Ribbon Grant from the Dakotas Conference UMW. This money is to be used to purchase supplies for the craft projects, awards for reading, and new books. There is a Craft Hour at the library on the first Saturday of the month, and the supplies for these projects are furnished by the library, so this extra money will be very helpful.

The Love Ribbon Grant is a program which offers monies to projects which directly benefit children from birth to age 16 for ministries in these areas: health, non-formal education, spiritual well-being, care-taking concerns, and young people in crisis. The Conde UMW applied for this grant on behalf of the Children's Library. They felt very fortunate to be a recipient of a grant, because Dakotas Conference includes all of North & South Dakota, and many applications are submitted.

After the Conde School closed in 2009, the city became the owner of the school building and some of the fixtures that were not sold at a public auction. Included in the acquisition were many of the books from the high school and elementary libraries. With a lot of hard work, which involved the moving of these books from one building to another and extending into sorting, shelving and entering on a computer list, the two libraries are now open. People have donated several books for adult reading, but not many for the children's library. There is a Pre-School held in part of the children's library two days a week, so they make good use of the books. Both libraries are open on Mondays 9-12 (Pre-School Day), Wednesdays 2-4:30 (along with coffee time), and then the 1st and 3rd Saturdays 10-12 am. There is a volunteer there to check out books and help readers with making selections.

Conde UMW - November

Conde UMW met on November 17 with nine members and Rev. Matt attending. Jane Worlie led the lesson on the World Thank Offering asking all to join in the movement for justice. The poor will always be with us giving us the charge to help care for them.

President Donna Hearnen opened the meeting by leading in the Purpose of UMW, Patty Knoll read the devotion from the Conference Book asking us to show our gratitude.

President reported she had received notice from the Conference Love Ribbon Committee that a grant of \$400.00 will be sent her for the summer reading program at the school library. This will enable the purchase of children's books; craft items, and a summer reading program for the children.

Work program chairs were announced: for 2011:

- January thru March - Donna Walter, Jane Worlie
- April thru June - Jane Worlie, Donna Hearnen
- July thru September - Donna Hearnen, Pat Siefken
- October thru December - Pat Siefken, Cindy Smith

Program chair Pat Siefken explained the program for the new year and asked all to sign their preferences for the program and hostesses. Prayer Chain will also be updated.

Friendship Night was set for May 11.

The Christmas lesson will be presented by Betty Jensen on December 15 with Pat Siefken and Cindy Smith as hostesses. As this is a special meeting all are invited to attend. Lesson will begin at 10:00 AM. We hope to see you with us.

Conde Sunday School

Conde Community Non-denominational Sunday School will be meeting at the Conde United Methodist Church at 10 am. On Sundays following the 9 am Worship. If you like your child to attend or if you are interested in helping, please call Erin Heiman at 382-5292. All are welcome!

Conde Ad Council - November

Conde Ad Council met at the church Nov 22 following Bible Study with chair person Patty Knoll presiding. Following reading of minutes and treasurer's report, it was announced that Kyburz has the contract for painting the church.

Charge Conference feedback was requested.

Christmas boxes will be packed to distribute in town.

Christmas Eve service at Conde will be 7 pm.

There will be a speaker for church on Jan 23rd and Layettes are to be collected.

It was announced that a Love Ribbon Grant was given to UMW for the work at the summer program for the children for the Conde library.

A plaque has been received as a friend of Volunteers in Mission.

Boxes had been sent for Shoebox Christmas.

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

Conde Church Cleaning
 December 11th at 9 am

Conde UMW
December 15th at 10 am
 Christmas Lesson will be presented by Betty Jensen with Pat Siefken and Cindy Smith as hostesses. All are invited to attend and hope to see you there.



Our Church Celebrations

Groton

- Dec 1 Charles Strom
- Dec 2 Meri Erickson
- Dec 3 Anthony Sippel
- Dec 4 Darlys Kampa
- Dec 6 Mary Swisher
- Dec 7 Morgan McNickle
Caroline Zeeb
- Dec 9 Ann Rix
Brooklyn Gilbert
- Dec 11 Dave & Connie Nilsson
- Dec 13 Melissa Gilbert
- Dec 14 Bob & Mary Ann Wehde
- Dec 15 Marjae Schinkel
- Dec 16 Dan Schinkel
- Dec 17 Alan Townsend
- Dec 18 Dylan Hanson
Jasper Pray
Michaela Oleson
- Dec 20 Lon & Marva Gellhaus
- Dec 21 Kent Webb
Noella Graf
- Dec 23 Casey Seelye

- John Padfield
- Marc & Fran Sippel
- Dec 25 Steve O'Neill
- Dec 26 Ben Peterson
- Dec 27 Emily Overacker
Jane Johnson
Karla Pasteur
Nathan & Katie Zeeb

- Dec 28 Jaden Dobbins
- Dec 29 Andrea Davidson
- Dec 30 Alec Oleson
Alex Graf
- Dec 31 Ralph & Virginia Breitzkreutz

Conde

- Dec 1 Joyce Haskell
- Dec 4 Greg & Stacey Bonn
- Dec 8 Tony Bruckner
Millie Busing
- Dec 10 Skylar Bonn
James Zeck
- Dec 20 Rex Taylor
- Dec 27 Richard & Dorothy Sanderson



125th Cookbook - Groton



Committee is asking a minimum of 3 recipes from each family. You need to write/type clearly because they are not re-typed but sent in as they are

turned in.. Use the form in the newsletter or can be downloaded from the website or available in the church kitchen. If the recipe is too long, staple two forms this same size together.

We will be collecting at least one favorite recipe from each Sunday School and UMYF member.

Turn in by Sunday January 16th!

Gift Certificates and advance sale coupons are available.



Groton UMW - Nov

Fourteen members were present at the 2p.m. meeting with the officers leading the Advent program with all members taking part. The Advent program dealt with preparation for the familiar season of Christ's birth and his coming into our lives and a look at how we can identify ourselves in the Christmas Story Characters. Pastor Matt provided beautiful and meaningful music for the program.

During the business meeting the minutes were read and approved as well as the financial report. Correspondence was read from Doris Zoellner thanking the unit for her Jewel of a Woman Award. Marjorie Townsend reported from the Membership Committee that one new member has been added.

Old business was a discussion of the cookbook and the project to be chaired by Kim Weber and

Linda Thurston. Carolyn Snyder read a letter from her daughter Linda and her husband from China thanking the group for the financial donation for their mission work and some information about their lives there.

New business was discussions and decisions on where and how much monetary gifts will be directed toward special mission projects. With decisions made, Marjorie Townsend made a motion to accept the special mission projects and Jan Raap seconded it.

The next meeting will be Dec. 8 at 11:30 with the officers serving the Christmas luncheon. The Christmas treat containers will be packed and delivered after lunch. Please have treats individually wrapped.

Lunch was served

Groton UMW Christmas Luncheon
at the church at 11:30 am

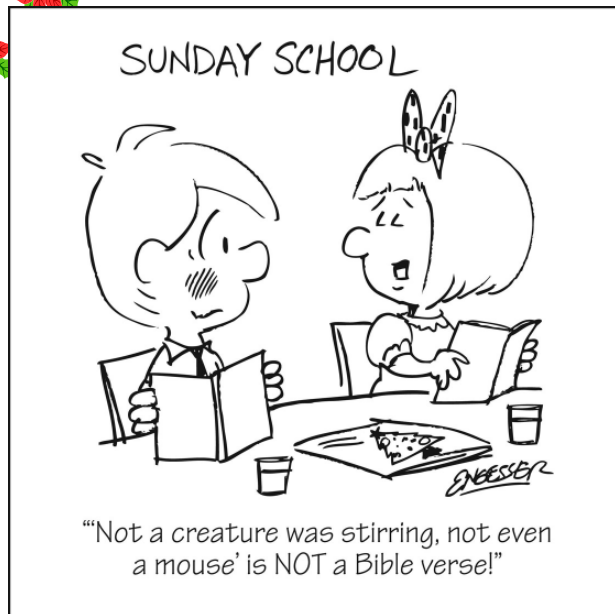
We will be filling and delivering gift boxes of treats. Please have items individually wrapped.



True hospitality

A 7-year-old boy was chosen to be the innkeeper in the Christmas program. When Joseph and Mary approached him, looking for shelter in Bethlehem, he simply had to say there was no room.

The kindhearted boy tried to take the sting out of the situation, however. "I don't have room for you in the hotel," he said. "But I'd love to have you come in for milk and cookies."



CBS Haiti Special features UMCOR

11/22/2010

Haiti: Religion's Response to Disaster is a CBS Religion Special about the assistance given to the people of Haiti. It will be broadcast Sunday, Dec. 5, on the CBS Television Network. (Please check your local station for exact time.)

After a 7.0 magnitude earthquake ravaged Haiti in January 2010, some of the first responders were religious relief organizations. These faith-based groups continue to work in Haiti, as the road to helping the country sustain itself remains a very long one.

The program looks at relief efforts begun immediately after the quake as well as the progress currently being made in Haiti by faith-based organizations. Members of Church World Service, Catholic Relief Services, Jewish Distribution Committee, and United Methodist Committee

on Relief will share stories about their work with viewers.

While religious relief organizations worked to help the living, they often struggled to cope with the dying, with some groups mourning the deaths of their own members. Representatives from United Methodist of Relief Committee (UMCOR) were in Haiti when the earthquake hit and lost two members, Reverends Sam Dixon and Clint Rabb. Melissa Crutchfield, UMCOR's Assistant General Secretary for International Disaster Response, tells viewers about the Haitian people's struggle for survival and UMCOR's renewed efforts and commitment in Haiti.

The special was produced in cooperation with the National Council of Churches, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Islamic Society of North America, the Union for Reform Judaism and the New York Board of Rabbis.

News from the Conference

Opening at Storm Mountain

Rapid City, S.D. -- Due to resignations Storm Mountain UM Camp is looking for a Facility Manager and a Guest Services Manager. If you or someone that you might know is looking for a way to be in service to our Lord and might be interested in the positions of Facility Manager or Guest Services Manager the positions are now open. Letters of inquiry and application will be taken until November 30, 2010. Interviews will take place the first part of December. Starting dates will be as soon as possible. Please contact Scott Jensen at scottjensen@hughes.net for additional information or any questions.



Facility Manager Position Open at Lake Poinsett Camp

Lake Poinsett, S.D. -- Lake Poinsett Camp is seeking applicants for a Facility Manager. The qualified candidate will possess knowledge and experience in building maintenance and grounds keeping. This will include electrical, plumbing, basic carpentry, painting, lawn care, landscaping and supervising seasonal employees. Good organizational and verbal communication skills are necessary. Resumes will be accepted until Dec 10th. The start date is negotiable in early 2011. The compensation package includes an hourly wage, housing allowance, and full benefits. Contact [Steve Foss](#) for a job description and compensation details



Camp Thank You

Thanks so much for sending me to church camp. I had lots of fun and learned a lot.

Thanks Reilly

Thank you for sending me to camp. I had a fun time and I hope to go next year.

Thanks again, Kari Hanson



Confirmation
Schedule

Groton

Confirmation will be on the same days as UMYF, the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 4-5:30pm.

Youth News:

UMYF 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7, Sunday School the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Groton Sunday School Christmas Program Practices will be on December 15 at 6:30 pm and December 18 at 4:30 pm. We are also practicing during Sunday School time so please be there. Thank you

Program will be on December 19th during church. UMYF will be serving lunch following with a free-will offering.



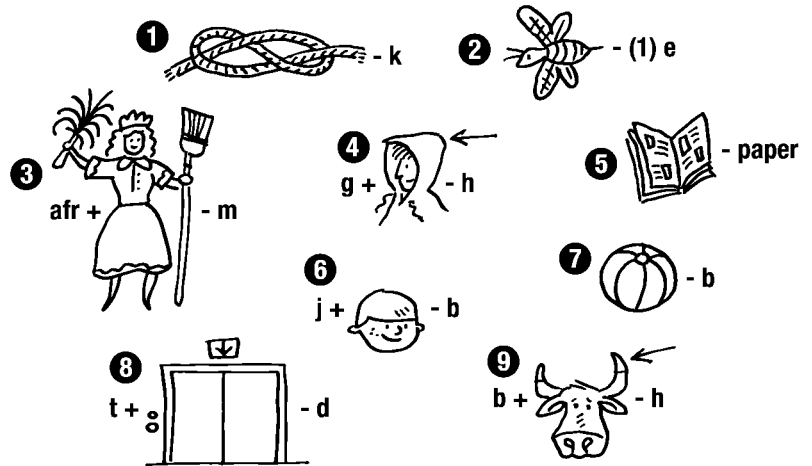
Program Practice



The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



"Do _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3. I bring you _____ 4
_____ 5 of great _____ 6 that will be for _____ 7 the people.

Today in the _____ 8 of David a Savior has been _____ 9

to you; **he is Christ the Lord.**" Luke 2:10-11, NIV

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee-(1)e=be; 3. afr+maid-m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born

Groton Ad Council - Nov

The board reviewed results of a survey about completed by members of the council. The council prepared an overall consensus to share at the Charge Conference.

Marge Overacker, co-chair for our 125th Anniversary Celebration, presented some ideas and plans to the board. The board was given a couple of possible dates for the celebration and decided on Sunday, September 18, 2011. Watch your newsletter and bulletin for additional information leading up to the celebration.

Pastor Matt commented that he had noticed our Trustees have been busy working on a number of items requiring their attention. He also mentioned that he was looking forward to the upcoming Charge Conference with our new District Superintendent, Marilyn Spurrel.

Groton Mission Statement
 "Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."

Groton Men's Dinner Photos scattered throughout the newsletter.

Groton Stewardship Report November 2010
Average Wkly Giving \$1,569
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$1,929
Average Weekly Attendance 81
Total Building Fund Donations \$240



Groton January Family Committee

Betty & Charlie Strom

Kim & Craig Weber

Carol & Luverne Strom

Linda & Gary Thurston

Sharon & Larry Wheeting

Caralee & Gary Heitmann

Jolene & Alan Townsend

Zachary Townsend

Brenda & Tony Madsen & Mitchell

January 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

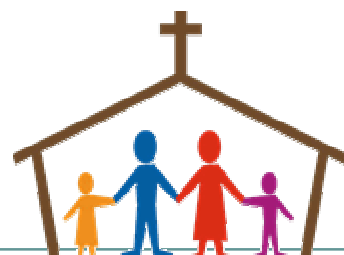
Marjae & Dan Schinkel

Kristi & Ben Peterson

Eugenia & Dwight Strom

Honorary Members

- Deloris Knoll
- Curtis Krueger
- Hazel McKittrick
- Mary Jane Schott



Our Church Happenings

December 2010						
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	



December

- Dec 2 Groton Nooma DVD Study 7 pm (Every Thursday!)
- Dec 7 Groton Women's Bible Study 10 am (last lesson - Christmas Break)
- Dec 8 Groton UMW 11:30 am
- Dec 8 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Dec 11 Conde Church Cleaning 9 am
- Dec 12 Golden Living Center Service 3 pm
- Dec 15 Conde UMW 10 am
- Dec 15 Groton Sunday School Program Practice 6:30
- Dec 18 Groton Sunday School Program Practice 4:30
- Dec 19 Groton Sunday School Program during church
- Dec 19 Groton UMYF Lunch after church for all.

Dec 24 Groton Service 5 pm

Dec 24 Conde Service 7 pm

- Dec 26 Conde World Hunger Sunday
- Dec 26 Newsletter Items are due
- Dec 26 Groton No Sunday School

Check the Online Calendar for email edition and the printed calendar inside for printed version.



Christmas
Eve
Worship