

# United Methodist Messenger

## From the Desk of Pastor Matt

Greetings friends in Groton and Conde! The moving truck has left and I am getting things unpacked and situated. While I am going to miss the churches in White, Aurora and Sterling, and the SDSU Campus, I am excited to begin this new chapter in ministry with you! And I hope that you are excited as well.

The picture to the left here was taken at a Christian music festival that was held back in 2007 at St. Thomas UMC in Glen Ellyn, Ill., where I served as the Student Associate Pastor while in Seminary.

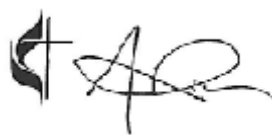
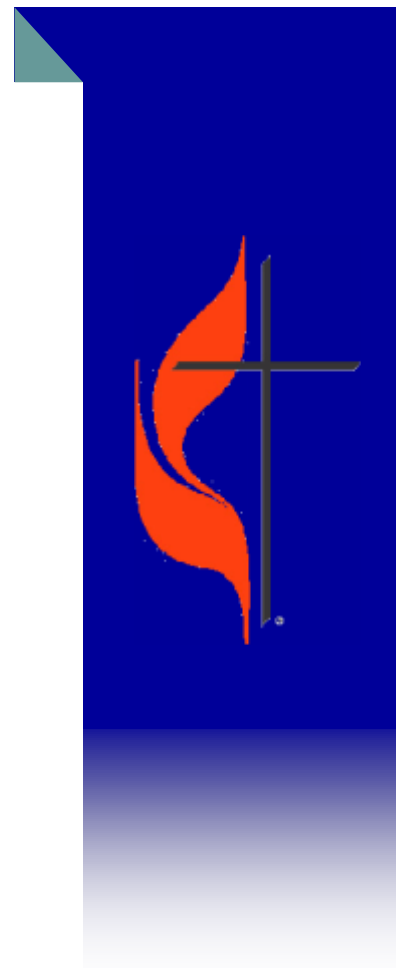
In addition to serving a church while attending Garrett-Evangelical, I also served as a chaplain intern at Evanston Northwestern Hospital and Bethany Terrace which is a UM Care Center.

With each experience, I have recognized how God is continually at work in my life and how each experience serves, in some form, as formative in preparing me for what lies ahead. We read in *The Message*, by Eugene Peterson, Jer. 29:11-13, "I know what I am doing. I have it all planned out-plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. When you come looking for me, you'll find me."

Friends, God is steadfast and faithful. We should be fearless with our

faith knowing that our Creator will complete the good works that have been started in each and every one of us as God's children. As one chapter closes and another begins, in this, our book of faith, let us keep our eyes on God so that we can be open to the opportunities and the calling that is in our midst through the power of the Holy Spirit! We ask the question that our Bishop raised for us. Who are we becoming? Often times, when we ask this question, there is no other image more powerful (in my opinion) than that image of being a lump of clay on the potter's wheel. And sometimes, depending on life's situations, that is exactly how we feel!

Friends, over the next few months as we are getting to know each other, I pray that God's spirit of joy and hospitality shape us into being a community of God's openness and joy for others. Grace and Peace,



Sympathies to the family of  
**Russell Townsend**  
who passed away  
June 27th

Wednesday, July 7, 2010  
it's the  
**Annual UMC  
FAMILY PICNIC**  
Come! Welcome Pastor Matt

Catered Meal Provided  
pork loin, hot dogs, salads, ice cream cones, etc...

Serving 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Join us for fellowship and fun!  
There'll be games for the kids (big and small).

RSVP by June 28th  
Clare at 397-8177 or cecbee@nvc.net  
Kay at 397-8389 or grotonumc@nvc.net

### Groton Transit

has received an FTA/DOT grant to pour a cement parking lot and replace some of the sidewalk for the Transit bus and office site. The 80-20 grant awards 80% of the cost paid by FTA/DOT funding. The local match of 20% needs to be raised by the completion time sometime after mid-August. If anyone is interested in helping this project become a reality it would be very much appreciated! Donations are tax deductible and **any size** donation is appreciated! Please contact Arlis Doeden at 397-8661 with any questions. Thank you.



### UNCLAIMED DISHES

Please check the store room if you are missing any dishes. There are several that need to be picked up...

Thank You.

### The Last Word...

THANKS.

There are not enough ways to say thanks for the pot lucks, the gift cards to Barnes N Noble, the basket of gifts, the many good wishes, prayers and cards AND all those birthday cards! I arrived as your pastor. I leave as your friend. You will always be in my heart. THANKS for all the blessings. Pastor Sheila

1619 S Dakota St  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
revrich@abe.midco.net

### A prayer for summer

A rippling sea of green and gold  
Is shimmering before us  
As wind stirs the tall corn,  
Wave after green wave rises high,  
Reaching for the summer sun.

Lord God,  
When you summon seeds  
From these furrowed fields,  
How readily they obey!

Like the myriad crops,  
Help us grow steadily:  
Help us stretch, ripen  
Round out, unfold.

In the warm rays of your strength,  
Help us yield goodness!

## Our Church Celebrations

### Groton

July 4 Seth Erickson  
 July 5 Allen & Joyce Walter  
 Cassandra Olson  
 Jasmine Schinkel  
 July 7 Ida Hannon  
 July 8 David Tewksbury  
 Kelby Hawkins  
 July 9 Jocelyn Peterson  
 Jordan Voss  
 July 10 Pernell & Noella Graf  
 July 11 Roger & Marjorie Overacker  
 July 12 Ashtyn Bahr  
 Brent & Christi Swenson  
 July 13 Jeff Voss  
 Jolene Townsend  
 July 14 Ava Kramer  
 Christine Nyberg  
 July 16 Linda Thurston  
 Richard Voss  
 July 17 Mackenzie Atherton  
 July 18 Josh & Merrie Atherton  
 Kaitlin O'Neill  
 Kevin Pray  
 July 19 Carol Strom  
 July 22 Gabrielle Furman  
 Jean Lowary

July 23 Joyce Walter  
 July 24 Christi Swenson  
 Maggie Oliver  
 Roger & Pam Rix  
 July 25 Hannah Webb  
 Jessica Pasteur  
 July 26 Angela & Perryn Dobbins  
 Lucius Geffre  
 Pat Knecht  
 July 27 Ryland Strom  
 Tony Madson  
 July 28 Bob & Carolyn Snyder  
 Craig Weber  
 July 29 Curtis Krueger  
 July 31 Amanda Swenson  
 Lynette Furman

### Conde

July 1 Arvon Taylor  
 July 3 Guy & Renee Hanlon  
 Norb & Donna Hearnen  
 July 6 Shanna Geist  
 July 10 Ann Menzia  
 July 23 Patty Knoll  
 July 27 Horace & Donna Walter  
 July 30 Judy Zeck



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

## Vacation time

Someone has said, "Vacation is what you take when you can't take what you've been taking any longer."

There are good reasons to take a vacation every year: spending time with friends and loved ones, experiencing physical and mental refreshment, enjoying changes in scenery and routine, and preparing for another year of productivity.

Please enjoy your vacation! Try to be faithful to the Lord by attending church while you're away, if you have the opportunity.

Just remember that during vacations and weekend getaways, you're especially missed by your friends at church. The work of the church suffers because no one can fill your place of responsibility quite like you.

God's work goes on all summer long. Your presence and gifts are needed to enable the church to be strong and vigorous throughout the entire year. When you're away, please bring or send your offering before you go.

Have a wonderful summer!

\*Currently 82 on email prayer chain.

If you are not on this list or the email list, please notify the church office.



## Groton UMW - June

President Gloria Pharis opened the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:30 p.m. with the reciting of the Purpose. Gloria read devotions before the business meeting began. There was no program that evening.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**SOCIAL ACTION:** Jolene Townsend gave some "Go Green" tips for better driving economy. She shared these ideas: 1) ease up on the gas pedal, 2) proper air pressure in tires, 3) car pool, 4) slow down, gas mileage goes up 10% for each 10 miles over 55, 5) get a tune-up, 6) no leaks in muffler, 7) plan trips and errands, 8) drive less (walk or use a bike when possible), 9) if possible drive a smaller car, 10) don't run car for more than 15 seconds if you've stopped to pick someone up or run in to do an errand are examples. Jolene also reminded the group of the importance of using reusable shopping bags. It takes millions of barrels of oil every year to provide the plastic shopping bags used by Americans every year. Also, it takes hundreds of years for these bags to decompose in the environment.

**EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION:** Marlys Rodman reported that many health kit items are becoming more expensive and perhaps donations of money would be more benefi-

cial in purchasing these items. The money received from the CD's donated by Carlyle Richards can also be used for Mission projects such as the health kits.

**NOMINATIONS:** Chris Nyberg said the committee is in the process of filling the slate of officers and committee positions.

**OLD BUSINESS:** July 12<sup>th</sup> is the 3<sup>rd</sup> prayer Vigil. The topic is Wellness for Women. Our times are 2:45-3:30 and please pray for the mental and spiritual health of women.

**NEW BUSINESS:** It was suggested that the UMW have a \$100 welcome basket prepared for the new minister. A motion was made by Twila Ruden to do this and was seconded by Marlys Rodman. It was also discussed that the unit should be allowed to pay bills during the summer.

Chris Nyberg invited the group to tour the new high school library for the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at 2p.m. Updates will be forthcoming. Hostesses are Carolyn Snyder and Marlys Rodman.

A delicious lunch was served by Jolene Townsend and Darlys Kampa. Secretary,  
JoAnn Krueger

## "America the Beautiful"

Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929) wrote, edited and taught English in her native Massachusetts. Occasionally, she wrote hymns, too.

On a trip to Colorado, Bates was greatly impressed by amber waves of grain, fruited plains and purple mountain majesties. She believed that God had definitely shed his grace all across this land. A visit to the summit of Pikes Peak inspired Bates to write her most famous poem-hymn, "America the Beautiful."

Bates also realized that patriotism was an important part of America. She was grateful for heroes "who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life." She wanted all Americans to realize how God had shed his grace on them and had crowned what was good "with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."

Bates embodied the spirit of thankfulness to God for all she had experienced and been given.

July 2010

### UMW Book Program

Sheets due

August 1st

Please give to  
Sharon Wheating

Groton UMW  
No Meeting in  
July & August

Let's Get  
**Together**  
United Methodist Women  
2010 Program Book

### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

Conde UMW  
No Meetings in July

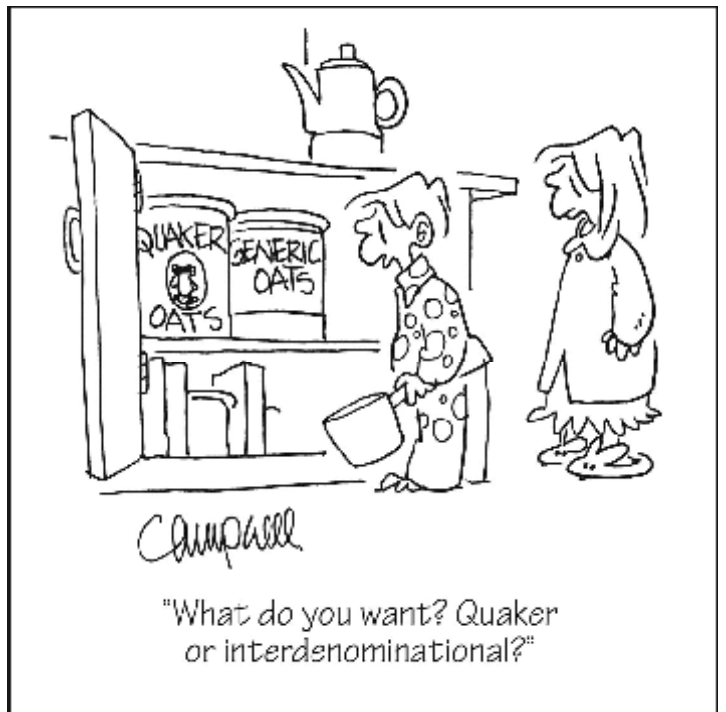
# Boy Scout Pancake Feed

July 17th

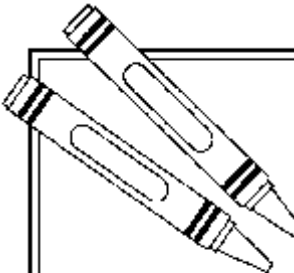
8-11 AM

Free-will offering

Bake Sale



# 4<sup>TH</sup>-OF-JULY



**Just for KIDS**

# The true vine

In a vineyard, the vine gives life to the branches, which, in turn, produce the grapes. Follow the puzzle directions below to learn about our special relationship with Jesus - our true vine.

Directions: Circle every other letter and then write them in order on the lines below.

START → b a s m l t r h g e c v d i e n f e g y h o i u j a k r

a v f f l i s s e u h t c t n s a R : g b p e o h n t M e l

w m x a y u Z t a e A m b a C i d n e s F i i n m m n e

e c b a l l i r i q w l e o h b m m i h k n j i j i d Q n

d a e r f m g u h c C h d f D r E u e i j t

apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5, NIV



## Groton VBS

August 8-12 from 5:30-8:30 and maybe a little longer on Sunday. The theme this year will be amusement park/circus. If anyone is interested in helping, please let Melissa know. 605-397-4001 These are the tenta-



**“BE EXALTED,  
O LORD,  
— in your —  
STRENGTH!  
WE WILL SING  
& PRAISE  
— your —  
POWER.”**

**PSALM 21:13, NRSV**

Answer: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.”



## Groton Ad Council Meeting - June

We are happy to report that we are current on our conference apportionment payments.

We are also especially grateful for a large donation made to pay off the balance of the bills for our furnace replacement and our curb & gutter remaining balance.

The board decided to move forward with a plan to repave the parking

lot. They also agreed to a suggestion to change the function of the current nursery to a play room. Volunteers will also give it a fresh coat of paint.

There was discussion and suggestions for a chair person who needs to be appointed to begin planning for our church's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August, 2011.

### Groton Stewardship Report June 2010

Average Wkly Giving  
\$1,610

Needed Wkly for Church Mission  
\$1,929

Average Weekly Attendance  
65

Total Building Fund Donations  
\$255

## A dollar bill's message

Look at the back of a dollar bill. On the left circle, which is one side of the Great Seal, are the Latin words *Annuit Coeptis*, which mean "He [God] favors our undertakings."

The pyramid in the left circle represents material strength and endurance. Yet the open spot near the top of the pyramid means there's more good work to be done in our country. The "eye" atop the pyramid represents the "eye of God," watching and reminding us that spiritual matters are more important than material concerns. Under the pyramid, *Novus Ordo Seclorum* refers to a "new order of the ages."

On the right circle is an eagle, our country's national emblem, symbolizing strength and victory. The shield on the eagle's breast signifies self-reliance. One of the eagle's claws holds an olive branch, representing peace. The other talon holds arrows, referring to power and protection.

The center of the bill says "In God We Trust."

### Groton Mission Statement

"Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."

## Groton Family Committee - August

Linda & Gary Thurston

Sharon & Larry Wheeting

Caralee & Gary Heitmann

Alan & Jolene Townsend

Zachary Townsend

Brenda & Tony Madsen, Mitchell

Marjae & Dan Schinkel

Kristi & Ben Peterson

Betty & Charlie Strom

Dwight & Eugenia Strom

Mary Jane Schott

Curtis Krueger

Bob & Carolyn Snyder

### Honorary Members

- DeLoris Knoll
- Hazel McKittrick

### Extra Responsibilities

- Mow lawn as necessary.
- Aug 1 change altar cloths to white for communion
- Aug 9 change altar cloths to green
- Clean the 3 NW Rooms (UMYF & 2 Sunday School)
- 5th Sunday - may buy donuts - give bill to Kay Brandt

| August 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 |    |    |    |    |



## Our Church Happenings

July 4 Welcome Pastor Matt!

### July 7 Groton UMC Roundup for Pastor Matt 5:30-7 pm

July 13 Groton Tues 10 AM Bible Study Resumes

July 14 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

July 17 Boy Scout Pancake Feed 8-11 AM, Free-Will Offering

July 25 Conde World Hunger Collection Sunday

Aug 1 UMW Reading Program due to Sharon Wheeting

Aug 8-12 Groton VBS in the evenings



| July 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 |