



# United Methodist Messenger

February 2012

Groton/Conde Parishes

## Dear Friends in Groton and Conde

The season of Lent is right around the corner and once again we along millions of other Christians around the globe will be turning minds and hearts inward to reflect upon the life, ministry and death of Jesus Christ. Lent is often viewed as a season of self denial; at time when we are stripped of all things non-essential to our humble existence.

We may lightheartedly acknowledge something that we are giving up whether it be chocolate, red meat, all meat. Maybe some of you will choose to give up coffee or pop (soda) or perhaps even television! I have actually had youth telling me that they are going to try giving up homework for Lent, because of all the pressure and scheduling demands of school.

Regardless of what we are giving up, the traditional understanding is that a new discipline or practice would fill the void; something holy and good, some-

thing that draws our hearts and minds closer to God and the fact that God wants to reconcile a broken relationship. Is this something we want? Or perceive that we need? Not always. God sometimes moves in the form of a holy interruption/intervention that distracts us from our agenda and the hectic business that we refer to as our lives. But imagine if you will that our lives are actually shaped by our faith! And that the disciplines we focus on during the season of Lent were common daily practices. God's agenda might just become our agenda. Our love for neighbor and even enemy would resemble something closer to God's love for a broken and shattered world.



## Walking with God

The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with him. It's about sticking with him when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It's about walking with the Lord through thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.

—Greg Laurie

## Thank You's



A BIG THANK YOU to Kelli and Kari Hanson for graciously offering to teach music class for the children. This is a very important part of the Psalm Sunday and Mother's Day services. Each classroom and music have some new great activities and messages!!

Twila Ruden wishes to thank all who sent cards or visited me since my surgery. It's good to be back in church!

50 holders and 50 candles for Christmas Eve Service in Memory of Margaret Blader.

Thank you so much for caring enough to share the Christmas Spirit with my child. I used your gifts as gifts from 'Santa'. You truly are Angels of God. God's Blessing to you, Greatful and Grateful mother of 9 year old girl. #6

Thank you for making Christmas special for my children. It was a very special time and thank you for blessing us. #9, #10, #11

## Groton Lenten Suppers



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 6-6:45 pm. Take a free-will offering which should be turned over to Anita Lowary or Kay Brandt. It will help 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.

Feb 22 - Jan Committee  
 Feb 29 - Feb Committee  
 March 7 - March Committee  
 March 14 - April Committee  
 March 21 - May Committee  
 March 28 - June Committee

### Groton Memorial Committee

will met Sunday, Feb. 26th at 10:15.  
 Committee members are: Connie Nilsson,  
 Becky Diegel, Meri Erickson, Alan Strom,  
 Gloria Pharis, & Linda Thurston



## Conde UMW January

The Pledge Service lesson was given by Jane Worlie. The lunch was served by Donna Hearnen & Betty Jensen. Patty Knoll read from the devotional booklet "2 Tim 3:16-17"

Some of the things that were discussed were...

- Opening our unit to all the women in our community. Since we are the only church in town, this is one of the ways we can grow and continue to learn about God and help others.
- The Christmas Party was a good time and will be continued in the

future.

- UMW Sunday will be coordinated with Groton's.
- Yearly Pledge was sent in, along with World Thank offering and monetary donation to the Salvation Army in Aberdeen. Guidelines were looked at and updated.
- Pop tops and pop cans are being collected again this year.

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

## Conde UMW

Feb 15th at 10 am

Program Focus

International Ministries

By Donna Hearnen

Hostesses

Cindy Smith & Donna Walter



**Feb. 19 2012**  
**Brunch after church in Conde provided by Jane Worlie & Judy Zeck**

## Pack Well

During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our

journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

—Based on the "Journey to Hope" sermon series, [www.rethinkchurch.org/lent](http://www.rethinkchurch.org/lent)



**Conde is going to be collecting donations for the Salvation Army on Feb 5th for "Souper Bowl Sunday".**

## Groton UMW January

The Groton UMW met at 2 p.m. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> with Jolene Townsend giving the program: "Take a Walk with Christ." Jolene incorporated the Purpose into her program. At the end of the program, Jolene installed the officers and mission coordinators.

President Gloria Pharis called the business meeting to order and Doris Zoellner shared devotions. There were ten members present.

The minutes were read and approved with one correction. Reservations for the bus that leaves Watertown for the Women of Faith Event to be held Oct. 19-20 at St. Paul, Minn. had to be made by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. There was no financial report.

Old business consisted of reviewing the Pledge to Missions letter. Pledges can be given to Anita Lowary at this time. It was reported that 36 containers were put together and delivered at Christmas time. Those that delivered said they had a good visit with the recipients and the goodies were greatly appreciated.

During new business, Gloria

thanked Jolene for putting together the 2012 UMW books and encouraged members to read through it and for committees to look closely at their responsibilities. UMW Sunday was discussed, but no date has been set. World Day of Prayer will be held Mar. 3 at the Catholic Church. The Shepherdess could make a possible visit in March. Sharon Wheeting reported there are eleven new books for the reading program. There are two books for each category, but Leadership and Development have three. A sticker has also been placed inside the cover page for the category as well as on the spine.

The meeting concluded with a delicious lunch served by hostesses Marlys Rodman and Marjory Townsend. The next meeting will be held Wednesday Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Program by Doris Townsend: "My Walk to Bethlehem." Hostesses are Doris Zoellner and Twila Ruden.

## Groton UMW Meeting

**February 15th**

**Weds - 2 pm**

**"My Walk to**

**Bethlehem"**

**By Doris**

**Zoellner**

**Hostesses are**

**Doris Zoellner**

**& Twila Ruden**



*Love Never Ends*

## Refocus for Lent

- Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry — trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred — return good for evil.
- Give up anger — be more patient.
- Give up pettiness — become mature.
- Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
- Give up sin — turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up — persevere.

—Author unknown



February 22nd

## Boy Scout News

The month of December held several activities for the Boy Scout Troop. On Dec. 9, the Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop held a Christmas Party and potluck. After a delicious meal, several games were played and the boys decorated boxes that were used to deliver gifts to the residents of Rosewood Court and Golden Living Center.

The following morning, the boys traveled to Aberdeen to ring bells at Wal-Mart for the Salvation Army. They have done this service project for a couple of years now.

At the December parent meeting, the Troop presented Vicki Pigors with a plaque as a thank you for her many years of service and assistance with the Groton Scouts. Vicki "retired" in December and she was a very instrumental part of helping the scouting group get started.

The Boy Scouts have several events in February that they will be participating in. Scout Week is 2/5-2/11, with Wednesday, 2/8 marking the 102nd anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. On Monday, 2/6, the boys will have their Board of Review. Troop 264 will have an entry in the Show Choir Chili & Soup Cook-off on Tuesday, 2/7 from 5-7:30pm at the Arena. Come and taste their Scout Sausage & Spud soup! We hope you vote for our troop! The Boy Scouts will also hold a Pancake Feed at the UMC on Sunday, 2/12 serving from 9-10:30am. We will also be presenting the charter to the church on this day. On Monday, 2/20, we will have a joint meeting with the Cub Scout pack. This will be the Blue & Gold Banquet, Court of Honor and potluck.

Again, our thanks to the UMC for sponsorship!



## Living Above the Weather

Have you ever boarded an airplane in a snowstorm? The sky is gray with heavy clouds. Snow is coming down hard, with no sign of letting up. Plows clear the runway and unfamiliar machinery de-ices the wings. Passengers might consider it madness to fly in such weather.

But the pilot knows the storm is earthbound. Past the clouds is glorious sunshine. The plane can fly above the weather, if only it can get off the ground.

When troubles overtake us like a storm, we may wonder in the midst of the darkness if God still cares or if he is even there at all. But if we believe that God, like the sun, is unchanged in good weather and in bad, we can ride it out. For storms are earthbound, but we are not.

—Kari Myers

## St. Valentine's Sacrifice

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine's Day has another meaning that's been lost.

First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.





### Groton Sunday School Schedule

February:

- 5th: Sunday School
- 12th: Sunday School
- 19th: No Sunday School (President's Day)
- 26th: Sunday School

March:

- 4th: Sunday School
- 11th: No Sunday School
- 18th: Sunday School
- 25th: Sunday School

April:

- 1st: Sunday School & Sing in Church (Psalm Sunday)
- 8th: No Sunday School (Easter)
- 15th: Sunday School
- 22nd: Sunday School
- 29th: Sunday School

May:

- 6th: Sunday School
- 13th: Sunday School & Sing in Church (Mother's Day)
- 20-23rd: Tentative for Vacation Bible School




## FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

### •••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.

 gain as or ear van an for give  
gave her on it one other he an a

B \_\_\_\_\_ w \_\_\_\_\_ h each  
 ot \_\_\_\_\_ d \_\_\_\_\_ give  
 \_\_\_\_\_ e an \_\_\_\_\_ if \_\_\_\_\_ y  
 of you h \_\_\_\_\_ grie \_\_\_\_\_ ce  
 a \_\_\_\_\_ st some \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 For \_\_\_\_\_ as t \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ d  
 for \_\_\_\_\_ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV



## Our Church Celebrations

### Groton

- Feb 4 KayLynn Overacker
- Feb 5 Andrea & Brian Bahr
- Feb 7 Gary Voss
- Feb 8 Gage Sippel  
Larry Wheeting
- Feb 10 Alan & Jolene Townsend  
Brenda Madsen  
Dion Bahr
- Feb 12 Skylar Kramer  
Yvonne Lorenz
- Feb 14 Adam Suther  
Diane Nissen
- Feb 16 Pernell Graf
- Feb 18 Chuck & Michelle Padfield
- Feb 19 Robin O'Neill  
Terry Furman  
Gaylene Voss
- Feb 20 Michael Wells
- Feb 21 Ruth Thompson
- Feb 22 Anthony Schinkel
- Feb 25 Brent Morehouse  
Greg Heitmann

- Feb 26 Mary Ann Wehde  
Ginger McNickle

### Conde

- Feb 4 Donna Walter
- Feb 5 Richard Sanderson
- Feb 7 Bill Trapp
- Feb 9 Vicki Stark
- Feb 10 Greg & Vicki Stark
- Feb 12 Norb Hearnen
- Feb 15 Tim & Betty Geist
- Feb 19 Tyler Stark
- Feb 20 Jim & Judy Zeck
- Feb 22 Betty Jensen  
Horace Walter



### New Groton UMC



- Marlys Rodman 397-4570
- Audrey Thurston 397-8493
- Pat Dahlquist 397-2616
- Doris Zoellner 397-2417
- Marjorie Townsend 298-5221
- Ann Rix 397-8478
- Darlys Kampa 395-6996
- DeLoris Knoll 397-2681
- Gloria Pharis 397-2375
- Marvel Johnson 397-2425

\*Currently 84 on email prayer chain. If you are not on this list or the email list, please notify the church office.

We must have your permission to start the Prayer Chain. So please call and request this to be done. It is



### Groton Jan Ad Council

The Trustees committee met and has about a dozen projects lined up for the spring.

A subcommittee of missions/membership care and the hospitality committee was formed to work on local family crisis missions. The subcommittee will raise funds for any projects the participate in.

Jolene Townsend shared about the book The Catch which discusses how to “catch” members.

Administrative Council President, Linda Thurston, would like to encourage the new committees to meet and get organized.

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

### Groton Stewardship Report January 2012

Average Wkly Giving \$1,457

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,045

Average Weekly Attendance 73

Total Building Fund Donations \$140

### Groton Calling System

A new calling system is being setup with everyone’s phone number on it. We will try it out to see if it is working during the month of February so in March if you do not get a call, please let the office know. This system will be used for reminders and cancellations. Sub groups will also be created especially for the UMYF. So the Youth will also be on the main calling system as well for all the church calls.

### Groton March Family Committee

#### Melissa & Neil Gilbert

#### Josh & Merrie Atherton

- Jeanne Wanous
- Kelli & Lars Hanson, Dylan
- Lynette & Terry Furman
- Francine & Mark Sippel, Camille
- Carol & Pat Knecht, Spencer
- Kent Webb
- Denise Brown
- Tim Olson
- John Padfield
- Pernell & Noella Graf
- Kevin Pharis
- Yvonne Lorenz
- Brenda & Tony Madsen, Mitchell, Mason
- Alan Strom
- Roger & Pam Rix

#### Honorary Members

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

#### March Extra Responsibilities

- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- March 4 change altar cloths to white for communion
- March 11 change altar cloths to purple
- Potluck 2nd Sunday

March 2012						
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





## February 2012

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			



February

## Our Church Happenings

- Feb 5 Groton May Breakfast Committee Meeting 10:15
- Feb 5 Conde collecting for Salvation Army for "Souper Bowl Sunday"
- Feb 5 Groton Youth Sunday
- Feb 12 Scout Pancake Brunch 9 - 10:30 am at Groton UMC - public welcome
- Feb 12 Groton Ad Council 6:30 pm
- Feb 15 Conde UMW 10 am
- Feb 15 Groton UMW 2 pm
- Feb 17-20 Groton Youth Ski Trip grades 6-8 at Storm Mountain
- Feb 18 Groton Sr High UMYF Sledding Party and Lock-In
- Feb 19 Conde Brunch following service
- Feb 20 Scout Blue & Gold Banquet with Potluck 6:30 pm
- Feb 21 Conde Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30 pm
- Feb 22 Groton Lenten Supper 5:30-6:30 with service starting at 6:30
- Feb 22 Conde Ash Weds Service 8 pm
- Feb 26 Groton Memorial Committee Meeting 10:15
- Feb 29 Groton Lenten Supper 5:30-6:30 with service starting at 6:30
- Mar 2 World Day of Prayer at SEAS in Groton



a Farmer changing the lives of students, he might never meet

I was asked to speak at a Kiwanis meeting last spring in Ortonville, MN. Who would have known what that would have turned into....it has to be a God Moment. I shared a meal with the folks at the meeting and then I shared about Haiti. There was a gentleman, there, by the name of Brent Olson. He came up to me after and said he had these desks and was telling a story about how they came to be. But they needed a home and he needed to tell the rest of the story.

I shared with him about the New Hope Elementary School that I would be involved in when I returned to Haiti. As of now the school consisted of a tin roof that a team put on in the Spring and tarps for walls. So I thought they might definitely be able to use some desks. I told him I had other contacts too if he was looking at delivering them in the city instead of the countryside. I realize many people are directly wanting to help with earthquake relief.



I love to get people connected to where they need to be, but don't necessarily have the expectation that it is where I am. I believe that we should do all we can to help people find where God might be calling them.

I really didn't know what to expect after the conversation, but wanted to be of all the help I could.

I am always amazed by the way God works because 5 months later Brent and his wife, Robin were staying at my house in Haiti. Along with them in Haiti was Brent's sister and brother-in-law (Myrlah and Joe) and 3 custom made desks that would fit on the plane.

Joe is a Videographer and came to finish filming the story of how a good 'ol farmer from Minnesota who doesn't have a lot donated his ash wood trees so that children in another country would have

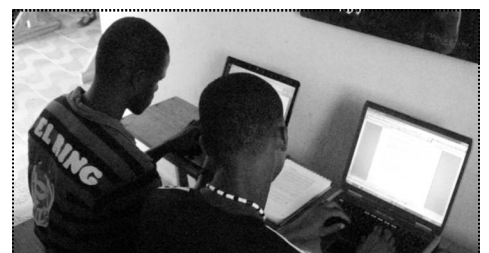
stronger desks. Brent is a story teller and has written a couple of books, I encourage you to check out [www.independentlyspeaking.com](http://www.independentlyspeaking.com) Robin is a baby magnet and could not get enough of the beautiful Haitian children, or they couldn't get enough of her; as well as Myrlah. Myrlah was also excited to see the Health Clinic in Mizak and see what they might need assistance with in the future.

I am always open to talk about Haiti to whomever might ask me to share; even though I had never been to a Kiwanis meeting before. I could never ever imagined what would have come out of that meeting.

Always be open to possibilities you never know where you might be led.

asdfghjkl;qwertyuiopzxcvbnm

Last year two of my friends encouraged me to teach them typing. There is little opportunity for students to use computers in Haiti. The Catholic School has some but they are the only school that teach any kind of computer training. I work from 2 typing books that someone found in the States for me. This year I started with two other students and have plans for continuing with the other two again. I would love to have more students at one time but right now we only have three computers to work from, including mine and Lee's laptop. Soon I will also be adding the Living Media Staff to the typing class as well to help further their education.



*Angelica's Heart for Haiti  
with the  
1st UMC in Vermillion*



**Donations can be sent to**

1st United Methodist Church  
16 N Dakota  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
Write check to 1st UMC in memo  
line of check,  
for Angelica Laudermith, Haiti

**A Little House—Just Right**

When I returned to Haiti this last fall, I wasn't sure where I would be staying. I wasn't really worried because I knew I had plenty of places that I could stay. But I am a 'nester', I definitely need my own space to call my own and I love to organize & decorate.

When I first came down with my friend Cassie we stayed with the Gabriel family, in the new house that Living Media had built through donated funds. After Cassie left I didn't want to be occupying their new home so I stayed with Lee Rainboth, (the director of LMI) in the 'fraternity'. We lovingly call it that because Lee has 6 plus 'brothers' staying with him at any given time at the house. Sometimes a couple more if they are home from PaP. This was ok but I don't think any one should live with 7 guys for more then a week.

We finally decided I could fix up the Gabirel's old family house and live

in it. They now had a new house that doubled the size of their old home. It



also would save me money in the long run, the longer I stay in Haiti. I am happy because when I do leave it will be something lasting that my donors can say they built, for the family.

It is a beautiful little 2 room house. I shopped for a bed and some purple and orange curtains in Jacmel. I decorated

with borrowed paintings from the gallery, that I trade out every so often. And recently I finally got a beautiful table and shelves at Christmas time from my friend Raphael (Papi) Gabriel. I just made myself a 'closet' too, with a sheet I found at a second hand store in the states. As well as putting a 'shelf' in the rafters for storage. I had also built myself a little table with the help of Eugenie (Gabriel) out of the old window and boards from the old house.

I don't have electricity, although I have hopes of getting a solar panel. I have an outhouse and a little out door shower area we share.

I am now eating at the house with the family since the 1st of the year. Eugenie (Ti Madame/Gabriel) is an excellent cook and I enjoy helping her. I feel very much at home and love making jewelry outside my home in the beautiful Caribbean air.

*Answered Prayers* 

This last Thanksgiving and Christmas, I came back to the states, but the main reason I came back was because my Mother and Grandmother both had big birthdays. My mother turned 60 and my grandmother 95, two days before Christmas and two days after Christmas. It was especially a blessing because my grandmother saw her 95th Birthday. About a week before the big day,

she fell and broke her hip and was taken into surgery that day. It was very scary for the family, because it took her two days to wake up and she is very slowly recovering.

It got me thinking a lot about life and the value of life and the resources we have available to us. When I talked to my Haitian friends about my Grandmother, they would always repeat her age, like they couldn't

believe it. There are very, very few Haitians that live to be this old. When I have seen Haitians here sick, later I hear they have died, I am shocked. They seemed to have some simple problem and then their life is cut short. It is a blessing that we have medical teams in Haiti that not only help treat the sick but more importantly bring with them education for helping everyone better understand health care.

