



# United Methodist Messenger

JANUARY 2012

GROTON/CONDE PARISHES

## Dear Friends at Groton & Conde

I hope all of you have had a Merry Christmas Season and are enjoying the beginning of 2012. I would like to thank all of you who helped make the Christmas Season so special. It truly was filled with fond memories.

The start of 2012 for me has been met with mixed feelings. My cousin Elizabeth gave birth to an 8lb 9oz baby girl. This has been a long awaited joy. Amid the joy and excitement of new birth, other family concerns have to do with my uncle Fred, who will soon be undergoing biopsy surgery to determine the malignancy of tumors found in his brain.

Hearing such news can certainly be a shock. And the only faithful response is to move forward and trust. I know that there are many of you in our faith communities here in Groton and Conde who have had their faith tested in similar ways.

I find myself reflecting on the birth of the Christ child and the holy family's brief time of celebration before learning that soon King Herod would be killing all infants ages 2 and under in a bloody massa-

cre in an attempt to murder "the messiah". Dark and foreboding times to say the least, and yet Mary and Joseph through the strength of their faith in God and with the urging of the angel fled to Egypt.

Despite the brokenness of our world, and the ways that we have our own faith tested, God is still working to bring about goodness and blessing, and often times, we find that God asks us to participate in bringing something new and good into existence for the glory of God and benefit for others. So it was with Mary and Joseph and the flight to Egypt. Their journey ensured the safety of the Christ child so that one day he would fulfill his calling.

As we look ahead to 2012, may we continue to move forward in faith, keeping our minds and hearts open to the work and will of God. Happy New Year!!!

I look forward to seeing you in church,

Rev. Matthew G. Richards



## 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 De-Decorating

Jan. 8 Everyone help take down Christmas decorations. The Jan. committee will provide egg bakes with members bringing pastries and fruit, etc. Breakfast begins at 9:30 to around 10:30. Hope everyone will join us.

## Groton UMW

The 2012 Theme is “Walk with Wholeness” and put Faith - Hope - Love in Action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

UMW Meeting is January 18 at 2 pm with a program by Jolene Townsend “Take a Walk with Christ” Hostesses will be Marlys Rodman and Marjory Townsend.

### Hope Thrives

Hope is not a domesticated state of mind. It seems to camp out in odd places, crops up at the worst possible times. Just as we resign ourselves to the minimum wages of life with no benefits, hope whispers that we shouldn't settle for despair's bottom line. Hope thrives in the barren places of our lives.

By Heather Murray Elkins

## Groton Missions Committee

Thank you all for making our Angel Tree a success! We fulfilled the wishes of 38 children this year involving 19 families. I received many tears and hugs as the gifts were picked up. Thank you.

Christmas Eve offering for BAGS for tomorrow amounted to \$1312.05. There is more information on this pro-

gram later in this newsletter. We pray this will be a successful community project.

We will be bringing the wagon back to church each week for the children to once again collect change so we can give Ken's Gift Certificates at Easter and help those in need in our community.



# Conde News

On Wednesday, December 14, the UMW hosted a Christmas Party. Several women in the community were invited, and even though the roads were icy, there were quite a few who were able to come. The morning started with a quiz about Christmas songs, and then Pat Siefken presented a very interesting program giving the origin of many of the Christmas Carols. Another activity that proved to be rather hilarious involved three teams of two ladies wrapping a "Christmas Gift." The catch being that each person could only use one hand. One team was fortunate enough to have a right handed person, and a left handed person; however, even though they got done first, theirs was not the neatest. Then everyone had an opportunity to use their sense of touch by feeling the articles in some Christmas stockings. The next activity tested sight and memory. The only problem was that no one realized they were supposed to be observing the table of articles for a special reason. The meal planned by Cindy Smith and Pat Siefken was delicious. Other UMW members helped out by bringing several different kinds of salads.

The UMW decided that we will have to make this Community Christmas Party a tradition. Everyone had a great time.

The UMW meeting for January will be at 10:00 AM on the 18th. Jane Worlie will have the Pledge Service entitled, "National Ministries", and Donna Hearnen & Betty Jensen will be fixing the dinner.

The Conde Church entered into the "Giving Spirit" of Christmas by donating money to buy things for the Shoe Box Christmas project. Donna Hearnen and Jane Worlie did the shopping and delivered the articles to the North Highland Church in Aberdeen. They sort things and make up boxes to take to the Enemy Swim Day School near Waubay. These were delivered on December 8th, and although no Conde members were able to go, the Missions Committee from North Highland sent us some pictures showing the delight of the children as they opened their boxes.

Jane and Donna also did the shopping for gifts to be given to four children in the Spink, Hand, & Faulk County area. Sizes and other information is provided by the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield. The UMW funds this project, and the Unit has participated in this "Christmas Giving" for many years. Unlike the Shoe Box Christmas giving, we do not have the opportunity to see the faces of these children.

## UMW Meeting

**Jan 18th  
10 am  
Pledge Service  
"National  
Ministries"  
by Jane Worlie**

**Dinner by  
Donna Hearnen  
& Betty Jensen**

# A New Year's Blessing

May God make your year a happy one!  
 Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,  
 But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;  
 Not by making your path easy,  
 But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
 Not by taking hardships from you,  
 But by taking fear from your heart;  
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
 But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
 Not by making your life always pleasant,  
 But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
 and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
 God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.  
 —Author unknown



## Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

# BAGS

Building Academic Groton Students  
for tomorrow...



Members from the Groton community have started an organization for our school-aged children who may not be receiving adequate sustenance on the weekends. This organization will be putting together a bag of food for students to take home on Fridays. The bag of food is designed to supplement the student's weekend food intake and allow the student to come to school on Monday properly nourished and ready to learn.

To get our organization started, we are asking if you would be willing to contribute money, time, or both. We will need people to help keep our program running on a weekly basis by supervising purchasing, stocking, scheduling, and a few other tasks. We want our organization to be set up to run smoothly and so it can continue throughout the length of the school year and start up again in the fall. We hope to have **B.A.G.S. for Tomorrow** up and running after the first of the year, once all the pieces are in place.

The Groton United Methodist Church ad council has approved to sponsor this group and assist them as we do the scouting program. This new organization will include many people community wide and all organizations will be asked to help in various ways. The location for storage and assembly will be in the mall owned by Rix Enterprises.

There will be a community meeting to finish organizing so watch the bulletin for more information or visit the website that will soon be up at [www.bagsfortomorrow.org](http://www.bagsfortomorrow.org)

The school has been working on sending home letters with the students. Questions and Donations of time or money may be directed to

Dan Dalchow, Elementary Principal  
Kay Brandt, UMC Missions Chair  
Anita Lowary, BAGS Treasurer

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.”

—Frederick Buechner

## What *not* to take into the new year

- **Self-help books** — Trust in God first; don't turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)
  - **Tape measure** — Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)
  - **Rearview mirror** — Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
  - **Gavel** — Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)
  - **Life vest** — Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)
  - **Garage-door opener** — We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)
  - **Handcuffs** — Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through — and despite — us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)
- Gregg McCaslin





# Our Church Celebrations

## Groton

- Jan 2 Holly Walter
- Jan 3 Caroline Graf
- Jan 6 Zachary Townsend
- Jan 7 Karla & Russell Davidson
- Jan 9 JoAnn Krueger
- Jan 10 Anita Voss  
Marvel Johnson  
Neil Gilbert  
Melissa & Neil Gilbert
- Jan 11 Randy Padfield
- Jan 13 Lance Hawkins  
Monte McNickle
- Jan 14 Jay & Linda Johnson
- Jan 15 Alissa Wells
- Jan 16 Hunter Bahr  
Marjorie Overacker
- Jan 18 Cheryl Graf

- Jan 19 Tim Graf
- Jan 20 David Nilsson
- Jan 21 Pam Bahr
- Jan 22 Bob & Marvel Johnson
- Jan 23 Wesley Morehouse
- Jan 24 Michelle Padfield
- Jan 26 Doris Zoellner
- Jan 27 Kristie Hawkins
- Jan 28 Ruby Luce

## Conde

- Jan 3 Bruce Herman
- Jan 5 Tony & Marcene Bruckner
- Jan 8 Darrel Haskell
- Jan 10 Donna Hearnen
- Jan 11 Norman Smith
- Jan 27 Darrell & Joyce Haskell
- Jan 30 Alice Hanson
- Jan 31 Kevin Hanlon

Birthdays  
to  
Celebrate



ANNIVERSARIES

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 not automatic for privacy reasons.

# Human Relations Day - Jan 15



## Let's Get Radical: Think Justice

Radical means “from the root or foundation.” That is how Jesus changed lives and how we, his followers, are called to change the world.

Being in ministry with the poor requires a radical or fundamental approach to overcoming not just the consequences but also the causes of poverty. It’s a matter of justice.

Your **Human Relations Day offering** supports vital community ministries that teach and advocate for justice, especially among people struggling to survive in the margins of society.

For example, students at United Methodist-related **Philander Smith College** in Little Rock, Ark., are becoming more involved in social concerns with help from the United Methodist Voluntary Service program. Combining academics with activism, the tiny, historically black college—with “Think Justice” as its motto—is teaching students to pursue justice for a better world.

During one Thanksgiving week students

explored and responded to the worsening plight of hunger and homelessness in central Arkansas. They hosted a Faces of the Homeless symposium, volunteered at a shelter and soup kitchen, slept in cardboard boxes outdoors overnight and collected food and clothing for 100 needy families.

Other lessons have come from a letter-writing campaign to lobby for tougher drunk-driving laws and public forums with consciousness-raising guest speakers.

Your gifts to **Human Relations Day** provide avenues to restored relationships through ministries like Youth Offender Rehabilitation, Community Developers self-improvement programs and United Methodist Voluntary Services community advocacy programs. It’s time to think and support justice, to become radical in changing lives and changing the world. Please give generously.



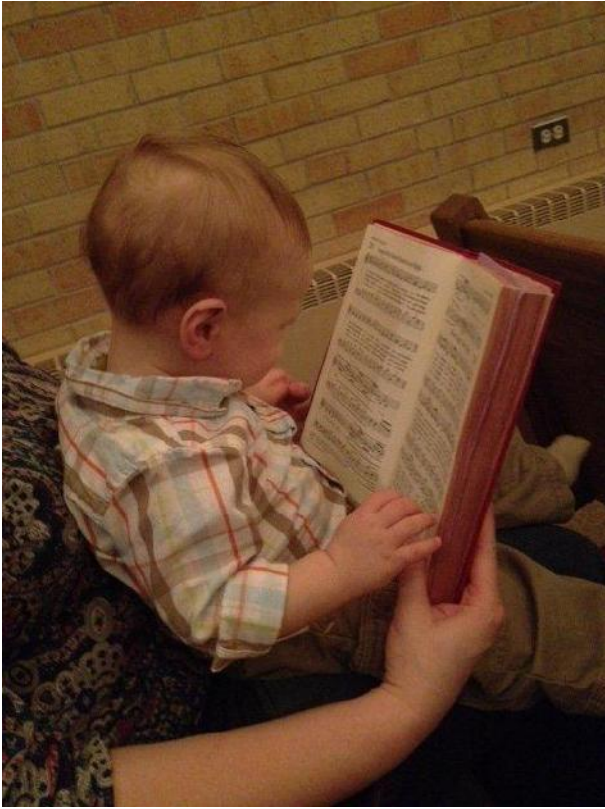
## Groton - Thank You Notes


### Memorial Thank You

- Communion design - Lorraine Bartz
- Sanctuary Tables - Karen Murray & Margaret Blader
- Remembrance Candles - Margaret Blader
- Advent Banner in memory of Norm Thurston & in honor of Audrey Thurston
- Christmas Banner in memory of Bill, Ethel, & Jim Knoll

Missions Committee Received Thank You Notes. Names removed for privacy.

- Thank you for the gift certificate I received. Your thoughtfulness will not be forgotten.
- Thanks to the Mission Committee for the \$25 gift certificates to Ken’s Fairway. It is greatly appreciated for when my family comes at Christmas.
- Thank you all so much for the wonderful gift. God Bless you all and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- Thank you for the \$25 gift certificate from Ken’s. That really will help! Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year!
























## A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

**Instructions:** Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			

Her name in Greek

___ pdeesh			
___ dchilnero			
___ drove			
___ acehtr			
___ sarcos			
___ nusoinm			



Everything else is  
WORTHLESS when  
compared with the  
**INFINITE VALUE**  
of knowing  
**Christ Jesus**  
my Lord.  
*Philippians 3:8, NLT*

Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas



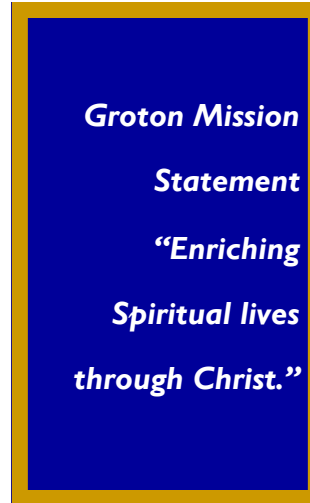


# Groton Dec Ad Council

New 2012 Administrative Council committee chairs are encouraged to set up meetings with their groups in January.

The council will be looking into adequate outdoor lighting of our church in 2012. We want to assure that our church has a welcoming appearance in the evening hours as well as during the day.

Kay Brandt explained the BAGS (Building Academic Groton Students) program to the council and asked if we would consider being the sponsoring organization for the program. The program would provide food for approximately 40 children on the weekends. The council agreed to sponsor the group. This requires no money from the church, but does allow the group to be set up as a non-profit organization and also allows them to establish a checking account. Our church would include these books in our audit process. More information will be available in the near future when a public meeting is held at our church.



## Groton Stewardship Report December 2011

Average Wkly Giving \$1,967

Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,030

Average Weekly Attendance 74

Total Building Fund Donations \$40

# Groton Family Committee - Feb

### Laurel & Monte McNickel

### Diann & Brad Morehouse

Marva & Lon Gellhaus

Justin Morehouse

Julie & Jesse Morehouse

Mendy & James Jones

Angela & Perryn Dobbins

Brent & Jessica Morehouse

Kay Brandt

Marjorie & Roger Overacker

Jesse & Jaymie Overacker

Jane & Marc Johnson

### Honorary Members

- Dick Ruden
- Gerald & Ann Rix
- Irene Breitreutz
- Don Walter

### Extra Responsibilities

- Feb 5th change altar cloths to white for communion
- Feb 12th change altar cloths to green for Epiphany
- Feb 19th change altar cloths to white for Transfiguration Sunday
- Feb 26th change altar cloths to purple
- Shovel snow from doorways before church
- Potluck 2nd Sunday
- Lenten Supper on February 29th

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			





January 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				

## Our Church Happenings

- Jan 8 Groton De-Decorating - Everyone invited to come and help  
Potluck Brunch from 9:30-10:30 (committee providing  
egg bake, everyone else bring appropriate items)
- Jan 8 PPRC Training with DS Rev. Marilyn Spurrell 2:30-4:00 pm
- Jan 18 Conde UMW 10 am
- Jan 18 Groton UMW 2 pm
- Jan 18 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Jan 22 Groton Audit Starts  
all financial books need to be in the church office
- Jan 24 Groton Women's Bible Study Resumes 10 am

