



# United Methodist Messenger

Groton/Conde Parishes

July 2012

## Dear Friends in Groton & Conde

Lately, my thoughts and prayers have been centered on all of our farmers who are saying to me that we are desperate for moisture. This week I have been in prayer for residents in Colorado, friends and family that are perilously close to out of control flames. Let's consider other parts of the country that are getting scorched by temps in the 100's (already in June). For those who are part of communities being evacuated because of the wildfires, to see their homes ablaze on the skyline is certainly traumatic.



Where do you send 85,000 people in a matter of few hours? Houses of friends and families become places of refuge as people fear the worst about their homes, property and livestock. Perhaps for those who are not as fortunate, truck stops and rest areas serve as parking lot motels until all is declared contained and safe for their return? For those caught up in these moments of fiery terror, I pray that in the midst of the firestorm, they'll be greeted by Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. That somehow they'll make it through

this temporary and earthly hell.

In many ways when we see others suffering, we are told to count our blessings. We may thank God that's not happening here or just simply, I am glad we live where we live because nothing too terribly bad ever happens. Friends, let us not be fooled into thinking that we don't have a share in the problems facing our nation, or better yet our global community. Through the act of God's creation, we are in fact all brothers and sisters; children in God's family.

Often it is the case that while we truly enjoy our lives here in a smaller community, our lives become enriched by travel. Our lives become enriched when we meet people outside of our existing communities. You never know who you'll bump into or have a conversation with that will somehow make an impact. Our prayers can make an impact, how we lift others up can make an impact.

I hope to see you in church,  
Pastor Matt

### Notes from the Pastor

1.) Music rehearsal will begin on July 10th @7pm and continue on Tuesday nights @ 7pm in preparation for W.O.W. which will be on Wednesday nights from 6-6:45pm

2.) Looking for female singers for the W.O.W. worship team youth and adults are welcome especially those with a passion for Contemporary Christian music.

3.) If there are any youth or adults who would like to share their talents or gifts in worship, we are developing a "pool" for those who would like to sing, dance and/or read in worship. Please contact Pastor Matt or look for the sign-ups on clip boards.

4.) Pastor Matt is working with Linda Thurston on a new confirmation format, it will be more interactive and give the youth more responsibility in practicing their faith.

## Wedding Blessings Shower

July 15 during coffee hour celebrate with Justin Morehouse & Amanda Bartels who will be married August 25th. They are registered at Target, Herbergers, and Menards.



## Groton Potluck Celebration



There will be a potluck dinner on July 29th at noon to celebrate the ordination of Pastor Matt. The July-August committees will supply the hot dishes and others can bring a dish to pass. Dessert will be provided.



## Groton UMW - June

The Groton UMW at 7 p.m. on June 20th with Carna Atherton-Pray giving the program on Women's Health Issues and Services. She began by giving a set of questions through the Illinois Dept. of Public Health. Each question led to much discussion and answers to many health issues that deal with women. Carna concluded her talk with health services for women that can be found in Aberdeen.

President Gloria Pharis began the business meeting with the twelve members present reciting the UMW Purpose.

The minutes and financial reports were given. During old business, Gloria asked if anyone had demonstrated any "Radical Hospitality." Twila Ruden reported she had paid a recent visit to Rita Washnok in

Aberdeen.

During new business, Twila shared a newspaper article on "Sweet Dreams." Gloria noted that the committees for the Oct. 3 Fall Bazaar will have to begin the planning stages. Upcoming events include the Eastern Sunrise Annual District Meeting to be held in Sept. and the Reading Program is due to Sharon Wheeting by Aug. 1

**There will not be July meeting.** The next meeting is Aug. 22, 2012 at 7 p.m. with Yvonne Lange giving the program "Walk with a Child." Hostesses for the August meeting are Jessica Morehouse and Chris Nyberg.

Jane Johnson and Linda Thurston were hostesses for the June meeting.

### Help Wanted!

Kay has many puppet scripts on cassette tapes and if they were dubbed over to CD's they would be easier to use and organize Puppet Shows. If you have time to help me out, please let me know. The sound system at church does this process with ease but it is time consuming.

Thanks Kay Brandt

## Thank You

Thank you to Margaret Blader for the new microphone set

Thank you for everyone who helped/donated to VBS. We had about 30 different kids throughout the week. Thanks Melissa

Dear Pastor Richards & folks at Groton, Thank you all so much again for allowing us to come and present the message of Jesus' love in song last Sunday! What a joy to worship the Lord together! Thank you for your generous love offering and your encouragement and prayers as we travel. May the Lord bless and

keep each of you and your families as you share His love! Your Friends in Christ, Don & Donna Mohl  
[www.folkmountaingospel.com](http://www.folkmountaingospel.com)

Dear UMC, Thank you very much for the sweatshirt. Also thank you for all the support throughout my 18 years of the Methodist Church! Thanks again, Sydney Erickson

Dear UMC, Thank you for the sweatshirt. It will be very useful to me as I attend SDSU next fall. Again, thank you so much! Sincerely Katelyn



# Memo from Annual Conference held in Sioux Falls June 6-9

Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey challenged us to 'Get up and Go' beyond the walls of our sanctuaries. Don't just sit in our pews waiting to be fed, but we are to be a presence in our communities as we reach out to help those near and far as we offer Christ to them.

Special speaker was Rev. John Edgar; Senior Pastor of the Church for all Peoples and Executive Director of Community Development for All People. He encouraged us to minister to the poor in our communities.

Workshops were focused on equipping the local church to making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (areas related to mission work, working with demographics in your community, worship designing, technology, after school programs and transforming the chicken dinner)

As a conference, we celebrated an average

attendance growth of 4%. ( Interesting since quite often the main-line churches have been noted as declining in members!)

The approved budget for 2013 is \$7,317,754 - a .3% increase from 2012.

The Conference Council on Finance and Administration and the Stewardship of Resource Link are proposing a change in the apportionment formula to a tithing of 12.5%.

A Sexual Ehtics Policy was debated and approved. Connectional Ministries was renamed to 'Extending the Local Church Link'; and extending the Health Medical benefit for retired clergy and their spouses was approved.

Highlight was the ordination of Pastor Matt Richards as an 'official' clergy in the Dakotas Conference!

## Conde VBS - June 11-15

There were twenty-nine participants plus helpers during the week of VBS who learned the 'everything is possible with God.'

Amid the clouds, high-flying planes and balloons, we had a 'Sky high-flying' time as we learned and experienced Bible adventures, watched a movie, did experiments at the Imagination Station, played games, made and ate snacks, and sang (danced and signed) to wonderful tunes each day. A Bible point was experienced each day as they learned that no matter what....we can trust God! The participants were challenged to find God in their surrounding and share those sightings with each other every day. It was a wonderful week of sharing and learning about the God who is present with us everyday of our lives!



### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

# Our Church Celebrations

## Groton

- July 4 Seth Erickson  
Madelynn Grenier
- July 5 Allen & Joyce Walter  
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
- 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 Jean Lowary
- July 23 Joyce Walter  
Chanda & Logan Nilsson
- July 24 Maggie Oliver  
Roger & Pam Rix

- July 25 Hannah Webb
- July 26 Angela & Perryn Dobbins  
Pat Knecht  
Laila Roberts
- July 27 Ryland Strom  
Tony Madsen
- July 28 Bob & Carolyn Snyder  
Craig Weber
- July 29 Curtis Krueger
- July 30 Megan & Seth Erickson
- July 31 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



## The water's fine?

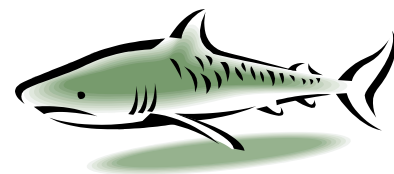
While a tourist vacationed on the Florida coast, his boat capsized. Although he could swim, his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft and praying aloud. Spotting an old beachcomber on shore, the tourist shouted, "Are there any gators around here?"

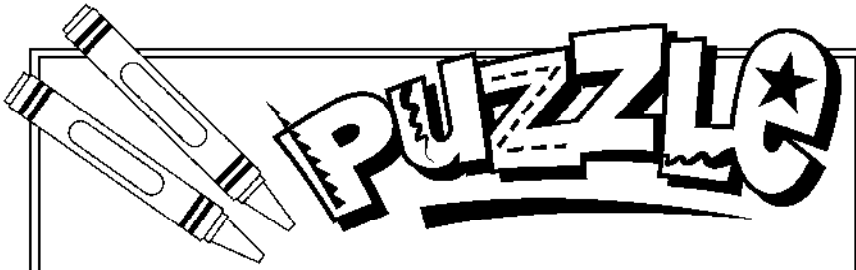
"No," the man hollered. "They haven't been around for years!"

Relieved, the tourist began swimming leisurely to-

ward the shore. About halfway there, he asked, "How'd you get rid of the gators?"

"We didn't do anything," the beachcomber replied. "The sharks got 'em."





# KNOW THE WAY

Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (John 14:5, NIV).

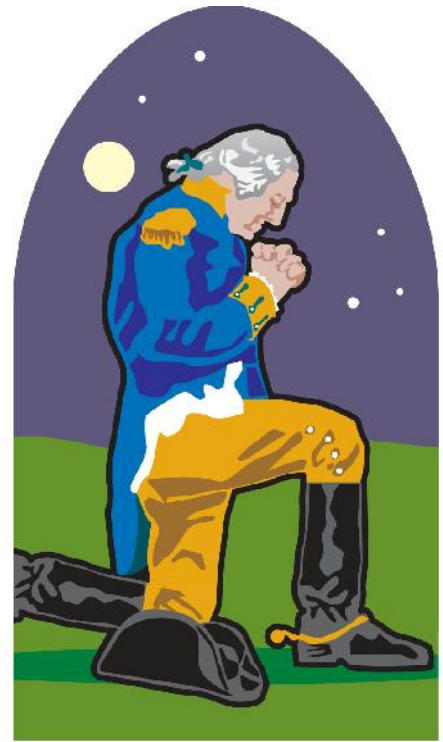
Directions: To read Jesus' reply, shade in the letters that contain an asterisk (\*) and write them in order on the blanks below.

u n s w e r e i a m h w a  
 y a n t r a t c h . I v e  
 n o o n a e c s o x m e s  
 f a t h e r r o u e d g h  
 b u r r e s t , v g o n

Jes \_\_\_\_ ans \_\_\_\_ d, " \_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ d the \_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ to the  
 \_\_\_\_ except th \_\_\_\_."

\_\_\_\_ 14:6, NIV

Answer: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6, NIV)



For what other  
**great nation**  
 has a god so  
 near to it as the  
**LORD our God**  
 is whenever we  
 call to him?

DEUTERONOMY 4:7, NRSV



Conde  
 VBS

# Groton Father's Day Extravaganza



## Friends and Family

Greetings from the United States – that is right I am state side. I have been a bit busy being a nanny to my new nephew Daxton in Chicago. I stayed with my brother and sister in law and visited churches on the weekends to sell Artisan products and share about Haiti. The first weekend I was in Traverse City, MI visiting with team members who had been in Haiti years past from the Traverse Bay, UMC. They had their Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale raising money for their next trip to Haiti. I was able to sell many products from Haiti too, including baskets, dolls, bags and much more. I didn't have any of the jewelry I make to sell, but sent them some a few weeks later for a large yard sale to raise money for their Haiti trip this summer. During that weekend, I was in Concord, MI visiting another team. It was a blessing to be there because 85% of the team from the past year had their high school graduation celebration at the church. I also had a wonderful visit with the pastor and her family. More Haitian products were sold, alongside some of my new jewelry at the church. The weekend in between I was able to visit the Urban Village Church in Chicago. It just so happened the week I came, there was a Haitian visiting, raising money for his foundation in Haiti. It was a great connection to make – I also met the leader of the last team from the church to Haiti. It is amazing to me the connections that God makes and where those connections might lead you.

It reminds me of the random meeting last year of a gentleman at a Kiwanis meeting from Minnesota who had a bunch of desks to deliver to Haiti. They delivered 3 last fall while shooting a documentary and amazingly the other 30 desks will be delivered this summer to our new school! That is what is happening in Haiti right now while I am back in the States. We are in the process of building a new school in the community that was adopted by LMi after another organization abandoned them. It is considered a 'free school' in the community. The kids pay a very small fee to attend the school and then their books and uniforms are covered. It has been amazing to watch this development – look out for more information on New Life School.

I have attached a Newsletter that I assisted writing with the Director of Communications with LMi. It shares more about the school and other activities that I am involved with in Haiti through LMi.

Over the next 2 months I will be all around the Dakotas visiting friends and family, sharing about Haiti, and selling Haitian Artisan products. It is my fundraising season, so in order to do the work I am doing in Haiti, I have to be back in the states for awhile. Hoping and praying it is possible to do this again another year. I am blessed to have the majority of my fundraising come from the 1st United Methodist Church in Vermillion, SD, who has set up a matching funds account for the work I am doing. The other funds come from other UMC churches I have spoke with and from wonderful people such as yourself. It continues to amaze me how God makes this possible. So thank you for being a blessing. If you are interested in continuing to support the work I am doing in Haiti this next year please send your donations to 1st United Methodist, 16 N Dakota, Vermillion, SD 57069.

I will keep you posted over the next couple months as to where I will be and when. This week I will be going to the Dakotas Annual Conference in Sioux Falls to see many of you and the church communities as well. I will be selling some jewelry as well as raising money for education in Haiti. The following week Christy Pill – a friend who had lived with me in Haiti for 2 months and taught dance in the community will be visiting Lee Rainboth, the director of LMi, in Iowa and myself. Currently I am at my mother's house in Big Stone City helping her pack for her move this year.

Hope your summer is going wonderful! Enjoy it.

*Angelica Laudermitth*

[http://  
www.angelicaheartforhaiti.blogspot.com/](http://www.angelicaheartforhaiti.blogspot.com/)

Volunteer through the 1st United Methodist Church in Vermillion, SD with Living Media International, Mizak, Haiti



# Sifted wheat

In *Sifted* (David C. Cook), Rick Lawrence explores Luke 22:31-32, Jesus' words to Simon Peter during the Last Supper. Jesus warns Peter that Satan has asked "to sift you as wheat" but assures him, "I have prayed for you ... that your faith may not fail" (NIV).

Sifting, Lawrence notes, is a three-step process: beat, separate, reveal. "The essential effect of sifting is a violent separation followed by a beautiful revelation," he writes. "Sifting shakes us apart for the purpose of destroying our complacent wholeness and revealing what is valuable and permanent and needed."

Satan, intent on destroying us through trials, doesn't realize that God can use what was intended as evil for good (Genesis 50:20) and that nothing can sepa-

rate us from God's love (Romans 8:38-39).

"Turning ugly into beauty is not a mere commentary on what God does," Lawrence writes. "It is an explanation of his genius and a summation of his redemptive strategies in our lives."



## When your ducks aren't in a row

On the surface, people, like ducks, can seem to glide effortlessly through life. We're often the picture of calm, in perfect control. But underneath, we may be paddling like mad to keep up a façade – or just to keep up.

Although we like to look and feel as if we have it all together, the truth is we often don't. Think how much better we'd feel if we could just admit our weaknesses and doubts. Think how much more genuine our churches would be if we didn't have to pretend we're okay when we're actually struggling.

Surely, God wants the pretense to stop. Set an example for friends and fellow worshipers by ending the mad paddling, embracing honesty and helping one another.



## "Summer Storm"

Looking for a way to help a little one manage anxiety about thunderstorms? Read this prayer-poem together and remind children of God's protection whenever we're afraid.

I run outside to laugh and play.  
Keep me safe, dear Lord, I pray.  
I look about. Dark clouds roll near.  
The sky declares, "A storm is here!"

Then thunder rumbles, cracks and booms!  
I hurry home to watch the show  
of lightning flashing all around  
and raindrops tumbling to the ground.  
A rainbow, Lord, please send my way.  
Then I will run outside and play.  
—MaryAnn Sundby

New Groton  
UMC

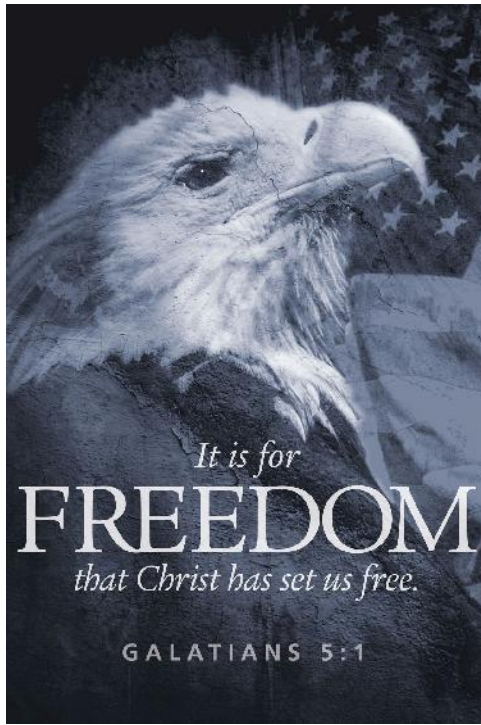


Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Audrey Thurston	397-8493
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Doris Zoellner	397-2417
Marjorie Townsend	298-5221
Ann Rix	397-8478
Darlys Kampa	395-6996
DeLoris Knoll	397-2681
Gloria Pharis	397-2375
Marvel Johnson	397-2425

\*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.

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



<b>Groton Stewardship Report June 2012</b>
Average Wkly Giving \$1,702
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,045
Average Weekly Attendance 67
Total Building Fund Donations \$550

August 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	

## Groton Family Committee - August

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  
Bob & Mary Ann Wehde  
Marjorie & Roger Overacker  
Carolyn Snyder

### Honorary Members

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

### August Extra Responsibilities

- Mow the lawn as necessary
- August 5th change altar cloths to white for communion
- Aug 12th change altar cloths to green

## Our Church Happenings

July 10 Groton WOW Worship practice 7 pm and will continue wkly

July 15 Groton Wedding Blessings Shower during coffee hour for  
Justin Morehouse and Amanda Bartels

July 18 Groton Worship Mtg 7 pm

July 22 Conde World Hunger Sunday

July 29 Groton Potluck Ordination Celebration Sunday for Pastor Matt

July 29 Groton Trustees meet during coffee hour

Aug 5 Groton Ad Council 12:30

Aug 8 Groton Membership Mtg 7 pm

Aug 25 Groton Wedding for Justin Morehouse and Amanda  
Bartels

Sept 5 Groton WOW (Worship on Weds) first service 6 pm

Sept 9 Groton Rally Sunday

July 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				

