



United Methodist Messenger

May 2012

Groton/Conde Parishes

Dear Friends in Groton and Conde

Don and Donna Mohl from Folk Mountain Gospel will be joining us in worship at both churches. CDs, DVDs, and hand-crafted biblical musical instruments will be available for sale that day.

We are all familiar with the practice of having our vital signs checked. Blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, thermometers as well as other instruments and tests serve as indicators of our health and wellness. Well when we're physically ill we all need care and healing. The same is true for the church as a living, breathing body of believers. We have to ask ourselves how we measure our health as an organization.

the decline as well. In America for example we have seen a rise in apathy and cynicism towards global concerns and the needs of even our own neighbors. It appears that the message of the Gospel is losing ground and is falling on deaf ears. Perhaps we as Christians have become disheartened by this and so in some regards given up on our missionary focus.



Faith & Fellowship

Coming this Fall!

Wednesday

Evening

Worship

Services

Can't make Sunday morning? You will be able to worship on Wednesday evening.

The United Methodist Church as a whole has been in decline in its' total professing membership since 1968. This has been noticed especially in the western countries in Europe and North America. However in Africa and Southeast Asia numbers of professing members in The United Methodist Church are outgrowing the losses observed in western civilizations. And it's left some puzzled as to why? UMC statisticians have been recording our vital signs and are providing facts.

In the next few weeks and the month of June re-claiming our mission and vision will be a focus for us as United Methodists following General Conference and heading into Annual Conference here in the Dakotas. The United Methodist Church will continue to address the need for change as well as re-visioning for a new millennium. I am excited and hopeful for the work that is being done here and for the work that is to come.

I look forward to seeing you in church,

Pastor Matt

The facts are alarming and correlate with numbers indicating that Christianity as a world religion is on



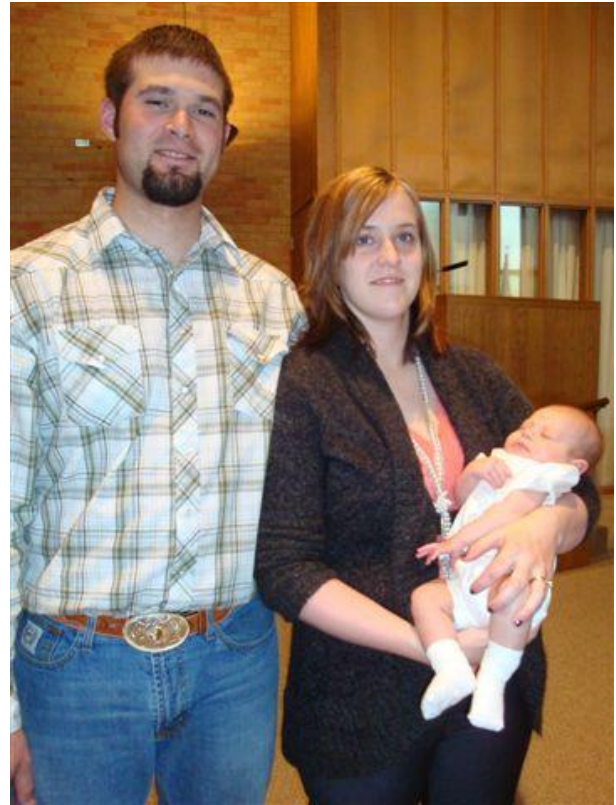
UMW Focus Day Thank You

The UMW Focus Day Workshop held April 14th was a Great Success! Sue Fritz and Pat Siefken, Eastern Sunrise officers, informed us of all the current UMW projects, Bible studies, new policies and mission projects for the upcoming year. Yvonne Lange and Pastor Matt assisted with the worship services with their musical talents.

Our UMW unit served morning coffee and rolls to begin the morning session. An AWESOME lunch of pork loin sandwiches, numerous wonderful salads and an Ice Cream Sundae Bar was enjoyed by all. The day conclude with coffee and bars as we said good-bye to our 38 fellow UMW members. It was a beautiful day for fun and fellowship!

A special "Thank You" goes out to the UMW members who assisted in making this day successful; Pastor Matt, Yvonne, Jane & Marc Johnson, Marlys, Rose, Darlys, Doris Z., Jan, Gloria, JoAnn, Jeanne, Clare, Carna, Susan, Betty, Denise, Sharon, Connie, Anita and Linda.

UMW Vice President, Jolene



Wyatt Wayne Morehouse was Baptized April 15. He is the son of Jesse & Julie Morehouse.

Thank You

Thank you so much for the gift certificate. May God Bless you for your kindness. Thanks again.

I want to thank you for all the years you remembered me with gifts. It was greatly appreciated. God works in mystery in ways his wonders to perform. Thanks again for the gift I received. God Bless you all!

Thank you for the Ken's Gift Certificate. It is a blessing and helpful during the holiday season. God Bless.

When I was downtown, I had a person come up to me and thank me very much for always thinking of them and gave me a hug. I told them that it was us as a church working together! So even though we do not always receive a written thank you, we are thanked in other ways.

Thank you to you all for helping to collect \$341.18 for the Easter Gift Certificates which helped out 10 local families. The Missions Committee

Thank you to John & Meri Erickson for the comfort mat in the kitchen.

Thank you to John & Meri Erickson and Dave & Connie Nilsson for the fall centerpieces.

Thank you to Margaret Blader Memorial for 3 dozen knives, forks, and spoons.



Groton UMW - April

The Groton UMW met for their monthly meeting on April 18th at 2 p.m. The interesting and informative program was given by Carna Atherton-Pray. Her talk included a power point presentation on services provided by Avera and concluded with an emphasis on health issues that are of concern to women.

The business meeting was called to order by President Gloria Pharis with fourteen members reciting the Purpose. Doris Zoellner read devotions from Ephesians on forgiveness. The minutes and financial report were read and approved. A bill for pork loin used at Focus Days was presented. Clare Brotherton made a motion to pay it and Marlys Rodman seconded it and all present approved.

Old business began with a review of Focus Days which was hosted by the Groton Unit. There were 38 people in attendance. The program was presented by Pat Siefken and Sue Fritz and was not only interesting, but also moved along in an efficient and effective manner. Delicious pork loin

sandwiches and salads were served at noon. May Breakfast plans are being finalized and will be held on May 2. The group was reminded to bring 9 by 13 pans by April 26th. Sign-up sheets were sent around for workers on April 29th –May 2. The only committee report was from Education and Interpretation with Marlys Rodman giving a reminder to have all grocery receipts in by May 1st.

During new business, the members discussed donating to the post prom party. Clare Brotherton made a motion to donate a monetary amount and Pat Dahlquist seconded the motion and all agreed. A sign-up sheet was passed around for Conde's Friendship Night on April 25th. The event begins at 6:45 and ladies attending were to meet at the church prior to 6 p.m. to car pool.

Lunch was served by Gloria Pharis and Sharon Wheeting. The next meeting will be May 16th at 2 p.m. with Clare Brotherton and Jolene Townsend giving the program on "Radical Hospitality." Hostesses will be Jeanne Wanous and Carol Strom.

Groton UMW
May 16th
2 pm - Weds
Program
"Radical Hospitality"
by Clare Brotherton
& Jolene Townsend
Hostesses
Jeanne Wanous &
Carol Strom

Conde UMW May Meeting

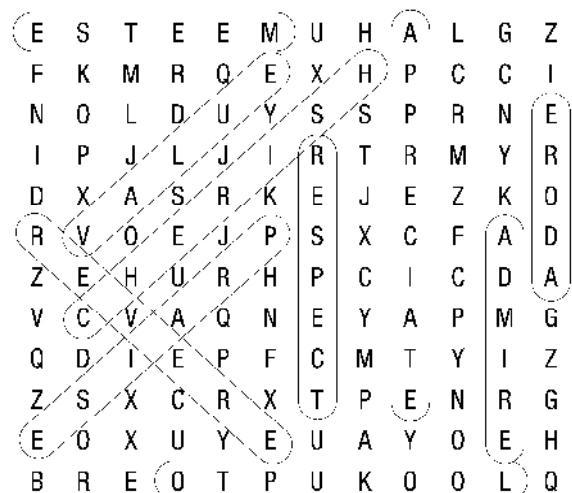
May 16 at 10 am

Program is "Peace in Action"

Leader: Betty Jensen

Hostesses: Donna Walter & Cindy Smith

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



Our Church Celebrations

Groton

May 1 Don Bartz
 May 2 Dale & Michelle Kramer
 Eugene Luce
 May 3 Kim Weber
 May 4 Desiree Morehouse
 Evan Erickson
 Tom Strom
 May 5 Gary Thurston
 Marlee Jones
 Tony & Brenda Madsen
 May 6 Clint Jacobson
 Richard Ruden
 May 7 Gabbie Kramer
 Rebeca Padfield
 May 8 Austin Jones
 Dale Kramer
 John Lowary
 Rob Wanous
 May 10 John & Anita Lowary
 May 11 Audrey Padfield
 May 12 Jack & Maggie Oliver
 May 13 Doris Strom
 May 14 Linda Johnson
 Pam Rix
 May 15 Charlotte Lange
 May 17 Cliff & Carna Pray
 May 18 Jean Walter
 May 19 John Erickson
 May 20 Tom & Kami Lipp

May 21 Cody Hanson
 Pastor Matt
 May 25 Jon Voss
 Adrienne Fliehs
 May 26 Drake Peterson
 May 27 Luverne & Carol Strom
 May 28 Wanda Zoellner
 Cheryl Hanson
 Jesse & Julie Morehouse
 May 29 Clare Brotherton
 Deloris Knoll
 Gary & Anita Voss
 May 30 Hazel McKittrick
 Kami Lipp
 Macy Knecht

Conde

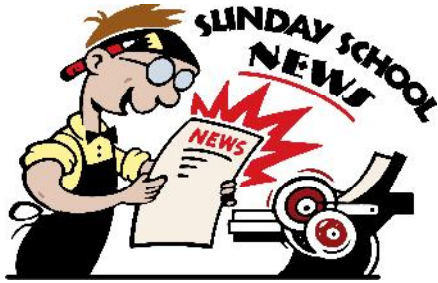
May 3 Janette Imsland
 May 7 Eric & Ann Menzia
 Jane Worlie
 May 10 Marion Jensen
 May 11 Tim Geist
 May 12 Diane Taylor
 May 16 Dwight Lyren
 May 21 Pastor Matt
 May 25 Greg Bonn
 Floyd & Carol smith
 May 27 Malcolm Knoll
 Arvon & Diane Taylor
 May 28 Grant & Janice Hanson
 May 30 Curtis & Cindy Haskell



Sympathies to family of
 Mary Jane Schott
 who passed away
 April 2.

Goodwill Donation Trailer is Coming!

This year it will be located in the Emmanuel Lutheran Church parking lot from May 18 to May 25th. Accepting donations of usable clothing, small electrical items, clean shoes, books, house wares, toys, records, tapes, jewelry and sporting goods. Furniture and large appliances will NOT be accepted due to limited trailer space. Donations brought to the site should be placed inside the trailer all the way to the front and not left by the steps.



Groton Sunday School Schedule

May:

6th: Sunday School

13th: Sunday School & Sing in Church (Mother's Day) Last Day of Sunday School

20-23rd: Vacation Bible School

Confirmation

Sunday is May 6 in Groton and those being confirmed are: Kari Hanson, Brady Graf, Marlee Jones, and Hannah Webb.

Groton Seniors to be recognized Sunday May 13 are: Michaela Olseon, Sydney Erickson, Mitchel Madsen, Katelyn Hawkins, Tara Telkamp, Brandon Stanley, and Ryland Strom.



What does God mean when he commands us to honor our fathers and mothers (Exodus 20:12)?

Complete this word search to discover words that mean the same as *honor*.

admire • adore • appreciate • cherish • esteem
look up to • praise • respect • revere • value

E	S	T	E	E	M	U	H	A	L	G	Z
F	K	M	R	Q	E	X	H	P	C	C	I
N	O	L	D	U	Y	S	S	P	R	N	E
I	P	J	L	J	I	R	T	R	M	Y	R
D	X	A	S	R	K	E	J	E	Z	K	O
R	V	O	E	J	P	S	X	C	F	A	D
Z	E	H	U	R	H	P	C	I	C	D	A
V	C	V	A	Q	N	E	Y	A	P	M	G
Q	D	I	E	P	F	C	M	T	Y	I	Z
Z	S	X	C	R	X	T	P	E	N	R	G
E	O	X	U	Y	E	U	A	Y	O	E	H
B	R	E	O	T	P	U	K	O	O	L	Q

Groton VBS in May this year!

Sunday, May 20 from 4-8 pm

Monday and Tuesday, May 21 & 22 from 5:30-8 pm

Wednesday, May 23 will be Meal & Program at 5:30 pm

Watch the bulletin and email for a list of needed donations coming soon! Meeting Sunday morning, May 6th. Join Us!





UMW May Breakfast
May 2nd



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

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday 10 am Women's Bible Study will start a new study on May 15th with Adam Hamilton's Christianity's Family Tree. We meet every week. Join in anytime!

Men's Bible Study meets each week on Weds at 7 am.

*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.



MEMORIAL DAY

Notes from Angelica Laudermith

On Tuesdays we have a Creativity group that meets at the center. We started it out of a few students from the Literacy classes. This last week we had them write a poem "I am" [Mwen se]. The responses were interesting and inspiring. We shared some and some were going to take their papers with them and finish them at home. One of the reasons for the class is we want them to think more about art and the reasons why we create art. Right now a reality is they create art to sell it, which eventually we will work with too. But first we need to ask the question why we create art and what impacts does/could it have? So we all walked into the Art Gallery here at the center and took a look around. I asked them to choose their favorite painting and tell us why they like it.

The first lady picked a painting that I would call the most simplistic maybe in the room, but does have a certain charm. It is of a great big apple tree and 2 people picking them with a great big basket full of apples. She talked about the abundance the picture showed, the possibilities of selling the fruit in the market and the people's determination in picking the apples from the tree.

Someone else picked a woman who is busy making food in her house. She liked it because she makes food in her house in the same way and she described what she is cooking and all the food in the picture. Lee then asked, why is she sad. In the background of the picture there are cracks in the walls. For me this picture has always clearly been about the earthquake and how life still goes on. Even though your house has got cracks in it and you are thinking about your loved ones that died in PaP – you still have to make dinner for your family. But the woman replied she is sad because she doesn't have meat to give her family and again she made the reference to – she is just thinking just like I do, and then she paused and put her hand under her chin the same way the lady has it.

The process for me looking at these paintings with these women was extraordinary. They liked the ones that showed everyday life that portrayed their lives. Not necessarily the one that had the best technique or the one that had a good composition. I realized this also made a lot of sense because there are not a lot of photos here in Haiti that does talk about the life here. I wonder how much different our gallery would be here if we filled it with the paintings that the Haitians love and not the ones that we think the International folk might purchase to continue to help with programming.

It takes a while to see a world from another person's perspective. And it is a really beautiful thing when two perspectives cross paths and work together. Today I was doing some work at home in the afternoon, working on jewelry and got tired, decided to take a nap. I didn't sleep well last night be-

cause one of our neighbors was playing music really loud and I was up for several hours in the middle of the night. When I woke up there was extra plants planted along my house, blocking one of the entrances. Blocking the wrong entrance, I have been wanting to barrier off the main entrance to our property so everyone for the business of the families doesn't need to pass by my house. As I was about to tell him to change the entrances I realized we could block the other one too. I showed him what I wanted and he worked and worked. The neighbor boy came over to and they trimmed up our other plants and planted more. And I started planting a few too and watering the newly planted flowers too. It was beautiful. When the other brother came home, he was excited about it too and started snipping and filling in a few more places. I am typing this on my porch now and feel a sense of inspiration.

Inspiration finds us in the strangest places and often when you least expect it. I walked about on some errands today. And although I did not find any of the people I needed to talk to or the things I needed to do I got some great pictures and just soaked in the culture trying to see the world I live in again for the first time. I talked to people and listened and took photos of people and nature.

I hope you maybe find a little inspiration in these stories and photos and in your everyday world. Pay attention to the little things around you and take a moment to think about them. I can't wait to share some of my stories with you in person. I will be back in the States the beginning of May until the end of July. I am looking for places to share about Haiti and do some fundraising. I also will be bringing back with me some art to sell too. So if you know of somewhere I could share some of my experiences or if you just want to sit and chat about Haiti over a cup of coffee please contact me. Also, keep me in your thoughts and prayers as I do raise funds for this next year to continue to live and volunteer in Haiti. If you would like to make a donation you can send it to the 1st UMC in Vermillion, SD or Donate on my BlogSpot.

Thank You for taking this adventure with me and be inspired today even if it is just by a bottle of mustard.

Angelica Laudermith

<http://www.angelicaheartforhaiti.blogspot.com/>

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

Photos she sent are on the next page...

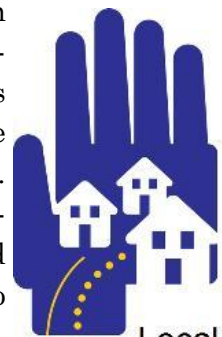
Angelica's Photos:
 Painting by GeeanJnLouis - Apple Tree
 Painting by Jn Ronald - Woman Cooking
 Photo by Angelica - mustard in a field in Haiti



Groton Mission Committee

Mission Committee met on April 9th to discuss projects for the year. It was decided to continue the short informational videos for the Special Sunday Offerings. The wagon will be used for the Easter Baskets and Thanksgiving Gift Certificates. It was suggested to have buckets or bowls for the children to carry making it easier to collect change and then dump in the larger container. The school teachers are to give us their supplies wish list before school is out so that we can work on it earlier this year. The Angel Tree project will happen again this year with some changes to make the project easier to follow and make it easier for which size is being requested by the child. A new project is being discussed and that is to have a harvest table on the North Side of the church by the alley where people in town may leave extra garden

produce and anyone then may come and pick up whatever they like. If anyone has any thoughts on this, please direct them to Kay Brandt. We would also need a volunteer to check it daily and take any spoiled produce to the dump.



Local
Missions

Missions Committee

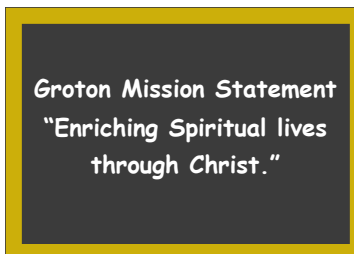
Groton Ad Council - May

The council decided to appoint a search team to find someone to serve as the Sunday school superintendent.

There was discussion on finding ways to increase church attendance. We average 86 of 175 members in attendance at our Sunday services.

The Trustees are working on a list of 24 items to be addressed.

Pastor Matt presented information to the council on the life cycle of a church. He challenged the council to consider what we need to “do” versus “talk about” in our planning to revitalize our church. He explained the Faith 5 program that the Fargo UMC has implemented. He and the council discussed other ideas that will be brought to the worship committee for consideration.



Groton Stewardship Report April 2012
Average Wkly Giving \$1,913
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,045
Average Weekly Attendance 89
Total Building Fund Donations \$55

Groton Family June Committee

- Carol & Luverne Strom**
- Caralee & Gary Heitmann**
- Karla & Russell Davidson,
Michaela Olseon, Alec Oleson
- Linda & Gary Thurston
- Sharon & Larry Wheeting
- Alan & Jolene Townsend
- Zachary Townsend
- Marjae & Dan Schinkel, Danielle
- Kristi & Ben Peterson, Jocelyn
- Bob & mary Ann Wehde
- Betty Strom
- Carolyn Snyder

Honorary Members

- Deloris Knoll
- Hazel McKittrick
- Curtis Krueger
- Bob Snyder

Extra Responsibilities

- Mow the Lawn Weekly
- June 3rd change the altar cloths to white for communion
- June 10th change altar cloths to green

June 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



“AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, I AM SENDING YOU.”
JOHN 20:21, NIV

May 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

- May 6 Groton Education Meeting for VBS
- May 6 Groton Confirmation Sunday
- May 6 Groton Honoring our Graduates
- May 13 Groton Sunday School Sings in Church
- May 16 Conde UMW 10 am
- May 16 Groton UMW 2 pm
- May 20 Groton Ad Council 12:30 pm
- May 20-23 Groton VBS
- May 26 Wedding of Dion Bahr & Samantha Bunke
- May 27 Conde world Hunger Sunday
- June 6-8 Annual Conference in Sioux Falls