

# UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

GROTON/CONDE PARISHES

JANUARY 2013

## *Dear Friends in Groton & Conde*

As we all know, the song “Auld Lang Syne” is the traditional song of well wishes that is sung at midnight on New Year’s Eve. However if one were to research the song you would find that the meaning focuses on the renewing of relationships and reconciliation. The writer urges us to look back and reflect as opposed to move on and forget.

I don’t know about you, but I’d always thought that “Auld Lang Syne” was a song celebrating the New Year in a way that urged us to move forward and forget about the failed relationships or the mistakes of the passing year. But this is not so. The song actually calls for us to rekindle long lost friendships or broken relationships. And to do so often times requires forgiveness.

Granted, forgiveness doesn’t mean forgetting. Often times, forgiveness requires humility on the part of the offending party and humility isn’t something that comes easy to us in this prideful, narcissistic, facebook age. It’s certainly not something that is easy to forget. No one wants to appear weak, vulnerable or culpable and it’s easy to draw our own conclusions regarding what took place or what was said and done. And there are situations where the offender must be kept at arm’s length or greater because of the seriousness and hurt that resulted from the offense (these types of offenses are almost always criminal). That being said, there is forgiveness and it is easier for some as opposed to others.

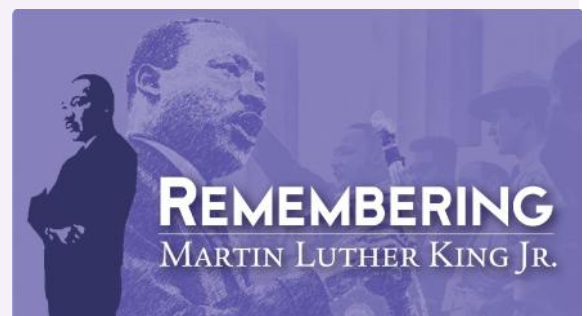
In the book of Matthew we read in 18:21-22 that Peter should for-

give his Christian brother or sister not only seven times but seventy times seven. If that was true for Peter, why wouldn’t that be true for you and I today? We also read in Matthew 5:23-24 that we should be reconciled with those we have offended before we offer a gift upon the altar. Wow! Can you imagine words of confession and forgiveness before we offer our gifts to God? This is why the worship liturgy will quite often involve words of confession and forgiveness in prayers offered prior to offering in church. Or you might see words of reconciliation in the prayer of dedication following the presentation of gifts and tithes.

Our society today has a superficial approach to almost everything including forgiveness. God’s intent for forgiveness requires deep heartfelt confession and honest and compassionate reconciliation.

For old long ago my dear for old long ago, we’ll drink a cup of kindness yet for old long ago...

I hope to see you in church,  
Pastor Matt





### Thank You

In memory of Wanda Zoellner, 2 new banners: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERS I SHALL NOT WANT and LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH PRAISE THE LORD. Also in memory of Wanda Zoellner, the new christmas table decorations, and white boards for the Sunday school rooms.

Thank you to Dick Ruden and family for an endowment to be used for a

major building project.

Thank you to The Morehouse family for donating much of the food for the mens dinner. Because of that donation we realized a net profit of \$1888. These funds will go into our maintenance fund.

Thank you to all who enriched the lives of 34 children, 15 families, in the Groton Area with gifts from our Angel Tree. The Missions Committee thanks everyone for their generosity.

UMC Angel Tree - Thank you so very much for all of the gifts that were given to my daughter. You truly are God's angels! You made our Christmas extra special! God's Blessings and Love to you! Thank you again.

Groton UMC, Thank you for the subway cards for Christmas. It is great getting mail at college and knowing that the church is thinking about us. Thank you again! Evan and Sydney Erickson



### Boy Scout Troop #264

United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your wonderful support throughout the years. We appreciate all you have done for our

troop by chartering us with your organization. We were so fortunate to be able to use your church as our meeting place for so many years. As the boys grow older and are involved in more activities it is getting

harder and harder to keep Boy Scouts going. After much discussion, we have decided to fold Boy Scout Troop 264. We appreciate everything you have done to help make Boy Scouts a wonderful program and are sad to see it end, but we all have enjoyed the wonderful memories that we have made and the great lessons that we have learned. Thanks again!!

Sincerely, Boy scout Troop 264



*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 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 Darrel & Joyce Haskell
- Jan 30 Alice Hanson
- Jan 31 Kevin Hanlon



**Something Different**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15 PM**

**GROTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Groton UMW Meeting**

Wednesday, January 16

2 pm

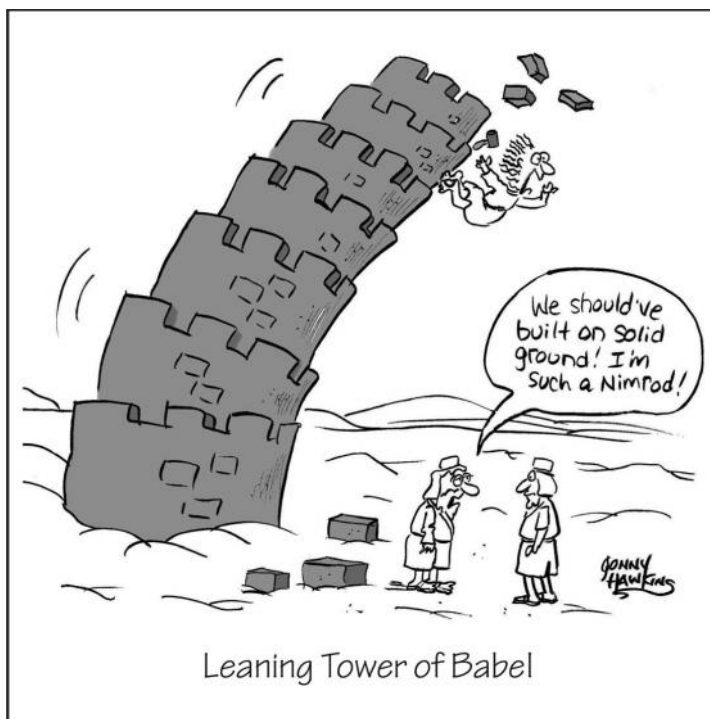
Program "Ready to See"

By Jolene Townsend

Hostesses are

Marjory Townsend

& Marlys Rodman



### Conde UMW - Dec

On Wednesday, December 6th, at 10:00 AM, the Conde UMW hosted a Christmas Program and Lunch. All the ladies in the community were invited, and there were 18 present to enjoy the morning. Pat Siefken started the program by telling about some of her favorite things about the Christmas Season. She then had the guests play a form of the Pictionary Game. She had slips of paper with song titles listed on them. The person selecting a slip of paper had to draw a picture on a white board that could identify that song. The rest of the group tried to guess the song, and the person who answered first, then had a chance to display their artistic ability. The last thing on the program was a short skit where Joseph tries to register Jesus in the census. Patty Knoll played the part of the

frustrated Registrar & and Donna Hearnen was the humble, but equally frustrated Joseph. Jane Worlie, Pat Siefken, and Betty Jensen were the three Kings. The skit resulted in being humorous by the text using situations and remarks from our present time. Even though it brought some laughter, there was still a serious meaning to the words being spoken. Following the program, a ham dinner with cheesy potatoes, salad, relishes, and ice cream was served.

The UMW members were pleased with the number of ladies that attended, and they hope to continue this event as something that happens every year before Christmas. Maybe next year, some men may come to keep Pastor Matt company.

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



*Human Relations Day - January 20th*

In the 1700s, John and Charles Wesley visited prisoners at Oxford Castle in England, sharing food, medicine and Holy Communion. Those early Methodists began a rich tradition that continues today.

One example is in Virginia, where Norfolk United Methodist Church developed a community-based non-profit called "Bridging the Vision." It serves more than 85 families with a video-visitation prison ministry and 100 families with an after-school tutorial ministry.

"We have been able to add the extra component of restoration of rights to our video prison ministry," the Rev. Sherry Daniels said, "to provide a stable and consistent connection for families where a family member is incarcerated. We help persons to move beyond the shame of having their right to vote revoked, to having it

restored."

The annual Human Relations Day offering supports Bridging the Vision. Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children to realize their potential. The special offering benefits Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs.

United Methodists connect with Human Relations Day by supporting community ministries like Bridging the Vision that teach and advocate for justice, especially among people struggling to survive in the margins of society. Human Relations Day "challenges our understanding of community engagement and how the community really experiences Shalom," Daniels said.



Photos Below Groton UMW Christmas Celebration with the mission of giving away Cans of Goodies to many locally.



- 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 Sunday School Christmas Pageant



# PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Want to start the new year off right?  
Remember to always ask God for guidance.

Directions: Write each word (or word part) in the correct numbered box to complete Proverbs 16:3, NIV.

JANUARY 2013						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		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		

14 - tab 18 - Pro 7 - ever 6 - what 15 - lish 8 - you 4 - the  
21 - :3 16 - your 9 - do 1 - Com 20 - 16 11 - he 10 - and 22 - NIV  
3 - to 12 - will 19 - verbs 13 - es 2 - mit 17 - plans 5 - Lord



Answer: "Commit to the LORD whatever you do and he will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3, NIV

Groton UMC  
Sunday School  
Christmas Program



*Groton Ad Council - Dec*

It was reported that our Children's Christmas Program will include approximately 30 children with about 75% being in pre-school to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade age.

The council was also happy to learn from our Missions Committee that our Angel Tree will support gifts for 34 children from 15 families from the Groton area schools. It was also noted that several members of the Groton community outside of our church membership had contributed to our Angel Tree.

Council members heard input from Carna Atherton-Pray about our Annual Charge Conference held at the Groton Church on December 10 and led by District Superintendent Marilyn Spurrell. Members from both the Conde and Groton churches attended and heard Marilyn

speak about our new bishop, Bruch Ough and his leadership style and goals.

Pastor Matt asked council members to discuss what they considered to be opportunities and threats to our Groton UMC ministry. One opportunity was to increase our outreach to senior members who are no longer able to attend regular services. Threats discussed included an aging membership who can no longer physically support our church activities as they have in the past and the time constraints our younger membership experience between work, home-life, extra-curricular activities, and worship.

And finally the council decided to move proceeds of \$1888 from the Men's Dinner to our maintenance fund.

**Groton Stewardship Report  
December 2012**

Average Wkly Giving \$2,102  
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,045

Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 100

Total Building Fund Donations \$55

Christmas Eve \$1240.88  
BAGS/UMCOR

*Groton February Family Committee*

**Francine & Mark Sippel, Camille**

**Kelli & Lars Hanson, Kari**

Jeanne Wanous

Lynette & Terry Furman

Carol & Pat Knecht, Spencer

Kent Webb, Hannah

Denise Brown

Tim Olson

John Padfield

Pernell & Noella Graf, Brady

Kevin Pharis

Yvonne Lorenz

Brenda & Tony Madsen, Mitchell, Mason

Jane & Marc Johnson

Melissa & Neil Gilbert

Josh & Merrie Atherton

**Honorary Members**

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

**February Extra Responsibilities**

- Feb 3 change altar cloths to white for communion
- Feb 10 leave altar cloths white for Transfiguration Sunday
- Feb 17 change altar cloths to purple for Lent
- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Potluck 2nd Sunday
- Remind Marc & Jane Johnson to change banners

GROTON MISSION STATEMENT  
"ENRICHING SPIRITUAL LIVES THROUGH CHRIST."

February 2013						
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		



January 2013						
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 13 Groton All-Church De-Decorating at 9:30 am. Potluck Brunch 9:30-10:30
- Jan 14 PPRC 7 pm in Groton
- Jan 15 Groton 10 AM Bible Study Resumes
- Jan 16 Groton UMW 2 pm
- Jan 16 Groton Ad Council 8 pm
- Jan 20 Human Relations Day Special Sunday
- Jan 27 Conde World Hunger Sunday
- Jan 31 Conde Movie Night "Seven Pounds" at 7 pm
- Feb 3 Conde Souper Bowl of Sharing with monetary and non-perishable food donations

