

UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

Groton/Conde Parishes
www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc

April 2007

Newsletter is in color on our
Website!



Beneath Thy Cross

Am I a stone, and
not a sheep,
That I can stand, O
Christ, beneath
thy cross,
To number drop by
drop Thy Blood's
slow loss,
And yet not weep?
—Christina Rossetti

Lent to Easter

What a humble journey it is through Lent to arrive perched in front of Palm Sunday's joyous time, only to be plunged into Maundy Thursday and go through Good Friday with the tears of our own heaviness. We are called as the church to travel with Christ on his way to the biggest gift God can give to us—THE WAY—The plan through salvation and resurrection to find a life in Christ. God's plan is to have us join in eternal life through Jesus Christ, Son of God. Such a simple gift that many refuse to believe it's for them. And yet, it is. Oh, and it's FREE.

I grew up in a church base that did not recognize Lent or Advent or other church high remembrance days. I missed a lot of connection to those times and am richly rewarded now to serve and share in the grace of God in this manner. The richness of the church and its metered ways of moving through the year help us to feel and understand what that gift from God is all about.

I too want to get to the joyous happy days of Easter, spring adventures with flowers, trees bursting their leaves and all of nature in harmony with the land.

We must wait and experience this last week of travel with Christ. His last days, his trying to get his disciples to fully understand what he was sharing, to leave a witness of Christ's life that would indelibly change the world forever.

Christ leaves us a message of HOPE

and JOY in the way of eternal LIFE by believing in his ministry, message, and sacrifice of life for us.

PATIENCE is what we need to have an abundance as we go into the last week of Christ's life in remembrance.

The mighty acts of love given up for us, the betrayals, the beatings, the scorn of humans, and the aloneness of his last hours fill us with dread. But the only thing that lifts us out of that heavy hearted place is the JOY OF THE MORNING, when the women called out

"He is not here, He is Risen"

He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Wait, experience and share in the love poured out for you and for me this last Lenten Week. It only gets better from here out.

In Peace, Shabbat, Shalom

Pastor Jan Price



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Our Church Celebrations

Groton Birthday's

- Apr 3 Marc Johnson
- Apr 4 Mitchell Madsen
- Apr 5 Irene Breikreutz
- Apr 7 Reilly Ell
- Apr 8 Lon Gellhaus
- Apr 9 Margaret Hubbard
- Apr 10 Martha Miller
Pauline Luce
- Apr 14 Reta Washnok
- Apr 15 Bradly Graf
- Apr 16 Kristi Peterson
Rodney Boehmer

- Apr 18 Merrie Atherton
Vern Walter
- Apr 20 Marlys Rodman
- Apr 22 Ali Pasteur
- Apr 29 Kevin Pharis
- Apr 30 Melissa Smith
- Groton Anniversaries**
- Apr 16 Terry & Lynette Furman
- Conde Birthday's**
- Apr 5 Wyatt Kurtz
- Apr 14 Dylan Stark
- Apr 18 Loren Siefken
- Apr 22 Curtis Haskell

Maundy Thursday

The day before Good Friday is called Maundy Thursday. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word mandatum, which means "commandment." In the gospel of John, Jesus makes this statement during the Last Supper: "I am with you only a little longer. ... I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:33-35, NRSV).

Maundy Thursday should always be a time of sharing with others, showing loving concern for one another, and partaking of Holy Communion. That is what the Lord asked of his disciples and asks of us.

Thank You

I want to thank all who held me up with all their prayers, support, and love as I went through treatments. My follow-up tests all look good and I felt God's love and healing through it all because of all your prayers. God Bless you all, Love Vicki Strom



Groton UMC

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Marlys Rodman | 397-4570 |
| Jean Lowary | 725-1232 |
| Audrey Thurston | 397-8493 |
| Gert Ruden | 397-8211 |
| Pat Dahlquist | 397-2616 |
| Florann Norris | 397-2638 |
| Mary Swisher | 397-8259 |
| Gloria Pharis | 397-2375 |
| Mary Jane Schott | 397-8588 |
| Doris Zoellner | 397-2417 |
| Marjorie Townsend | 298-5221 |
| Darlys Kampa | 395-6996 |
| Marvel/Bob Johnson | 397-2425 |
| Mary Ann Whede | 397-8330 |

*Currently 68 on email prayer chain.



The Last Supper



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Groton UMW April 18th Meeting

April 18th at 7:30 pm

Program Leader is Chris Nyberg
Hostesses: Joy Walter & DeLoris Knoll

Executive Meeting at 6:30 PM with Newsletter and May Breakfast Updates

Upcoming Events include

- May Breakfast May 2nd
- Mother's Day May 13th
- Tea Party on Wheels May 16th
- Work on the Reading Program

Groton UMW May Breakfast

The annual May Breakfast, sponsored by the Groton unit of the United Methodist Women, will be held on Wednesday, May 2nd. The program will be "A Pleasing Palette" presented by local artist Renae McKiver.

Serving times are at 11:30 am or 1:15 pm. The cost is \$7.00. Reservations may be made by calling Clare Brotherton at 397-8177 or DeLoris Knoll at 397-2681.

Ecumenical Spirituality Retreat

exploring who you are: Martha or Mary? At the Living Waters Retreat Center in Arlington, SD on May 4-5, 2007. Register by April 12 with Margaret McCay-Smith, 605-528-2880. Cost is \$45/person.

Conde UMW ~ April meeting

April 11; Wednesday ~ 7:30 pm

"Shine, Shine, Shine"

We will meet to spruce up our lives with a fun spring makeover ~ this includes our outside and inside. We need to shine for Jesus!



Conde UMW Prayer Vigil

April 26th

11:15 - 12:00 Noon

Praying for Native American Ministries Day

Groton UMW

Prayer Vigil

April 25th

9:00 - 9:45

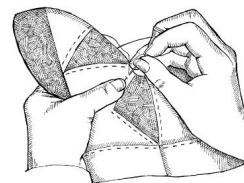
Check your UMW book for time to pray
Praying for Native American Ministries Day - Acts 2:39

*Hosanna
in the
Highest!*



Sewing Kits are being collected

- 3 yards of uncut cotton or cotton blend, solid color or print fabric
- 1 package of needles
- 1 spool of thread
- 5-8 matching buttons
- 1 pair of sewing scissors



**UMW
Focus Days
Workshop**
Hosted by
UMW Groton
April 21st

Conde UMW Sunday



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

A friend of the Lord

An elderly woman relied on her son to take her to worship, especially if she knew the congregation would be celebrating Holy Communion.

One Sunday, as they drove to church, her son asked, "Mom, why are you always so concerned about going to worship when Communion is going to be served?"

Without hesitation, she replied, "Son, on the last night of Jesus' earthly life when he was with his friends in the Upper Room, he took bread and wine and said they represented his body and his blood. He requested that his friends take bread and wine often and to remember him in that manner. Son, I am a friend of the Lord and I take Communion to remember him."



ISAIAH 25:9, NRSV



Baptism Blessings - Emily Overacker



The undercover man

While greeting people after the Easter service, a pastor was surprised to see a member who rarely attended worship. He asked the man to wait for him until everyone had left.



When they were alone, the preacher said to the man, "John, I'm so glad to see you today. Listen, I have a request to make of you. I want you, beginning today, to join the army of the Lord."

The man smiled and said, "Pastor, I'm already in the army of the Lord."

"Now, John," protested the pastor, "how can you say that? I only see you at Easter and Christmas."

John leaned close to the pastor and whispered, "I'm in the Secret Service."

The Price of Joy

You don't begrudge the labor when the roses start to bloom;
 You don't recall the dreary days that won you their perfume;
 You don't recall a single care You spent upon the garden there;
 And all the toil
 Of tilling soil
 Is quite forgot the day the first
 Pink rosebuds into beauty burst.

—Edgar A. Guest



Groton Church Directory Deadline - April 22nd

The Church Directory deadline is April 22. I need all photos by that date so that the directory can be printed and distributed by Mother's Day. If you did not have Sue take your photo, you need to just turn in a digital photo snapshot which can be taken by Anita or Kay. If you have not told us which photo to use that Sue took, then we will pick one to use.

I have 72 family photos so far and am missing 60 family photos. It would be nice to have this as complete as possible and I do appreciate your help in making that possible.

Thank you
Anita & Kay



The lay ministry of Lloyd Ware

Lloyd Ware knows that when people stand in line before going through airport security, many, perhaps most, feel a bit tense.

And that's why Lloyd, a security screener, does something about it. Before checking each traveler's identification and plane ticket, he greets that person with a smile. When he's finished checking, he calls each person by name and says, "(Name), have a blessed day."

"People love to hear their name," Lloyd says. "Calling a person by name eases their tension a little bit." And the blessing is an added bonus.

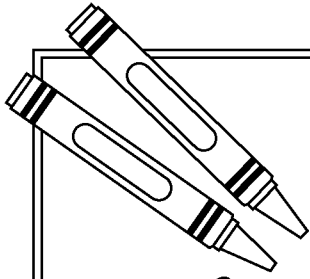
Like everyone, Lloyd admits he has his "down days," but he tries to leave them at home, because "These people deserve my cheerful heart."

Have you shared your cheerful heart today? The cost is little, but the rewards are great.



EASTER





Just for KIDS

Something Important to Remember Always

Romans 5:8, NIV, tells us how great God's love is for us. Use the grid to complete this verse.

	a	b	c			
1	F	U	N			
2	♥	B	♥			
3	M	V	H			
4	♥	♥	A	W	O	♥
5	♥	♥	♥	G	♥	♥
6		E	T	C		
7		L	♥	R		
8		♥	D	♥		
9		I	♥	S		

“
 2b 1b 6b 5b 4c 8b 8b 6a 3a 4c 1c 9c 6b 7c 4a 6b 6a 9c
 3c 9a 9c 4c 4b 1c 7a 4c 3b 6a 1a 4c 7c 1b 9c 9a 1c
 6b 3c 9a 9c : 4b 3c 9a 7a 6a 4b 6a 4b 6a 7c 6a
 9c 6b 9a 7a 7a 9c 9a 1c 1c 6a 7c 9c 6c 3c 7c 9a 9c 6b
 8b 9a 6a 8b 1a 4c 7c 1b 9c”

Answer:
 “BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS:
 WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.”



Sunrise Worship

7:45 In Groton
with a breakfast to follow

Groton YF

April 4th - No Meeting
April 18th - Regular meeting at 6:30 pm



Palm Sunday
 April 1st, Groton
 Sunday School is
 singing in Church
 and then going on
 an Easter Egg Hunt
 after the service.

Easter Sunday
 April 8th,
 No Sunday School
 in Groton

Native American Ministries Sunday Special Offering

April 22, 2007 - In 1988, General Conference voted to designate one day and one special offering each year to Native American Awareness Sunday. The hope was that congregations throughout United Methodism would become more aware and appreciative of the culture, the needs and the gifts of Native Americans within our midst. In 2000, General Conference decided we also should recognize and support financially the ministries that Native people carry forth in the name of Jesus Christ. May we, as a congregation, continue to be gracious in our gifts to this special need.

“I want to be the best minister I can be. The best way to do this is through theological education.”

When lifelong United Methodist Chebon Kernell graduated from college, he decided to go to law school “to get into the political arena. I thought that would be my calling.”

But apparently God had other ideas for the young man whose heritage is Seminole. At a church retreat in 2001, Chebon remembers, “I heard the calling to ordained ministry.”

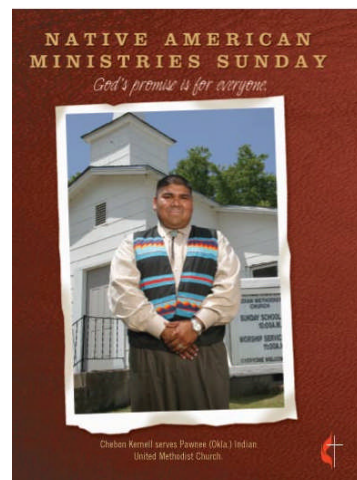
So he responded. Now a third-year

student at Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Okla., and director of interpretation and programs for the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, Chebon has a clear life plan—“to serve the local church. Spiritually, it is such a blessing.”

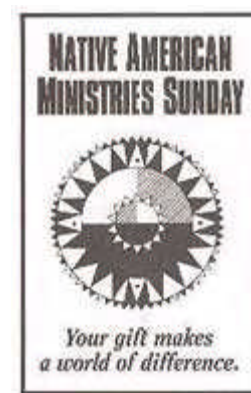
Of his student appointment, Pawnee Indian UMC, Chebon says, “It’s fun to see the church grow, to see the opportunities for worship and hospitality. These are at the heart of the gospel of Christ.”

Your offering on Native American Ministries Sunday enriches The United Methodist Church in many ways. Native Americans attending United Methodist and other approved seminaries receive scholarships. Across the United States, urban ministries reach out to Native Americans and others. Mission with Native Americans in your annual conference and across the connection is developed and nurtured.

“For the promise...is for everyone whom...our God calls” (Acts 2:39). Help promising Native Americans like Chebon Kernell to answer God’s call to ministry. Please give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, the third Sunday of Easter. Your gift makes a world of difference!



“For the promise... is for everyone whom... our God calls”
Acts 2:39



It is light that enables us to see the difference between things; and it is Christ that gives us light. —A.W. Hare and J.C. Hare

Endless possibilities

It may well be that the world is denied miracle after miracle and triumph after triumph because we will not bring Christ what we have and what we are. If, just as we are, we would lay ourselves on the altar of service of Jesus Christ, there is no saying what Christ could do with us and through us.
—William Barclay



Groton Ad Council Minutes - March

Finance: It was reported that no apportionment have been paid year-to-date

Church Directory: Progressing nicely with last of photos being entered into the directory now.

Pastor/Parish: A Pastoral Leadership job description has been developed and copies were distributed to the council.

Trustees: This committee needs to meet to discuss the curb & gutter project that will affect church property.

How to be a “rhino” steward

Rhinos are unique creatures. Weighing up to 5,000 pounds, covered with inflexible plates of thick skin, a rhinoceros can run as fast as 30 or 40 mph. When a rhino perceives a threat or is irritated, it charges with enormous power. The last thing anyone wants aimed at him is a pointed 18-inch horn with all that weight and speed behind it. The rhinoceros is single-minded when it comes to doing what God made it to do – protect all members of its herd, especially the young ones. And the rhino does it immediately, without thought for itself.

Perhaps the rhino can teach us a thing or two about stewardship.

Shouldn't we be quick to serve God's kingdom as stewards through the use of our talent, time and treasure? And shouldn't we put the full force of our convictions behind our actions? Such dedication would be rhino-like in its immediacy, persistence and perpetuity.



Groton Stewardship Report March 2007	
Average Wkly Giving	\$1,238
Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs	\$1,742
Average Weekly Attendance	71
Total Building Fund Offerings	\$107

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

Groton May Family Committee

- Carol & LuVerne Strom
- Gloria & Harry Pharis
- Sharon & Larry Wheeting
- Brenda & Tony Madsen
- Ben & Kristi Peterson
- Marjae & Dan Schinkel
- Caralee & Gary Heitmann
- Don Bartz
- John Padfield
- Betty & Charlie Strom
- John & Lori Seelye
- Honorary Members**
- Irene Breikreutz
- Charlotte & Art Lange
- Rita Washnok

Extra Responsibilities

- May 6 - Change altar cloths to white
- May 6 - hang Communion Banners for this Sunday only and then monthly banners till May 27th
- May 27th - change altar cloths to red and hang Pentecost Banners for this Sunday only
- Mow Lawn if needed
- Clean Nursery & Kindergarten rooms
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Optional)





GROTON/CONDE PARISHES

April 2007

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					

Our Church Happenings

- Apr 1 Groton Sunday School singing in church
Groton Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt following church
Palm Sunday
- Apr 4 Groton UMYF - No Meeting
- Apr 5 Irene Breitreutz turns 99 today!
Groton Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm
- Apr 6 Conde Good Friday Service at 7 pm
Groton Community Good Friday Service at CM&A 12 noon
- Apr 8 Groton No Sunday School
Easter Sunday - Church at Regular Times
Groton Sunrise Service at 7:45 am with Breakfast to follow
- Apr 10 New Member Inquiry 7 pm
- Apr 11 Conde UMW Meeting 7:30 pm
Groton Ad Council 8:00 pm
- Apr 18 Groton UMW Meeting at 7:30 pm
Groton UMW Executive Meeting at 6:30 pm
Groton UMYF - 6:30 pm
- Apr 21 UMW Focus Days in Groton
- Apr 22 Native American Ministries Sunday Special Offering
Groton Church Directory Deadline
- Apr 25 Groton UMW Prayer Vigil from 9:45 am
Conde Ad Council 7:30 pm
- Apr 26 Conde UMW Prayer Vigil from 11:15-12 noon
- May 2 Groton UMW May Breakfast