

United Methodist Messenger

Groton/Conde Parishes
www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc

May 2007

Serving & Satisfaction

Finding a story that emanated from the Chicago Tribune on 4-17-07 of a study that money can't buy happiness, I was intrigued. Reading further this article by Barbara Rose states that "clergy are the most satisfied with their jobs; lawyers, doctors down on the list."

The National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago ranks clergy at the top of both job satisfaction and general happiness. [I knew that!] Physical therapists and firefighters were second and third. So there you have it.

Most of us know that we enjoy and seem to have the gift of helping people and that in itself gives great satisfaction when done in goodly amounts.

The business world held my attention for twenty-seven years beforehand. I was able to make decisions, handle advertising, personnel needs, training, and scheduling. The pressure was always on for details and knowing how the systems of all the mechanics of our business worked.

This fact alone concerns some of the people on the Trustee committee because the pastor has a curious side that wants to know how things work and how I can help keep maintaining those systems when no one else is around. Some view my gender as the inability to deal with those items and others can trust me to do my best when I am able. I am open to learning and being taught preventive maintenance for whatever is around me as well as the office I uphold. All in all the teamwork of the church and it's own abilities to help each other learn and serve these things make life interesting.

I did not need to have an article in the

newspaper tell me what I know is a priority of my own satisfaction. Being proud to serve even in the face of long hours, at a moderate pay level does not change the satisfaction level. The sense of pride we feel at the status of being in the "clergy profession," is another source of satisfaction.

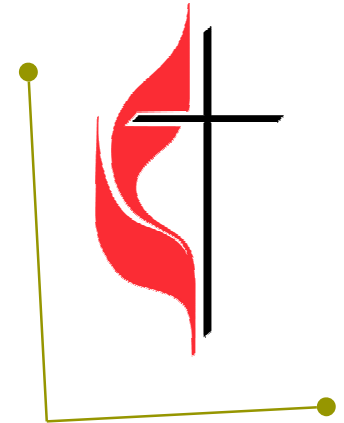
To share time with those who are bringing new life into the world, other life changing decisions as well as being with folks at a time of illness or death are very rewarding to clergy and especially this pastor.

I have been in a form of "ministry" for thirty-three years when I look at the time that has gone by. I served others in a service-based business that mirrors what my duties and calling from God entails from me currently. The spiritual nature of ministry is a solid reinforcement of a Godly purpose here on earth.

This pastor is pleased to have affirmation that my calling continues to be one that I have already been in touch with for most of my adult life.

Each of us is in ministry right where we work and attend school, or share a home with others. We have been "called" to serve others, to do so in Christ's name and reap the blessings that come when we can "give ourselves away" for others. Some people have a servant's heart and do so at the drop of a hat. Others can see the needs of others and not have it bother them at all to help others. Most people see the need and will respond when they have the time and it does not call them too far out of their comfort zone.

This natural calling to go and serve



others is just what our example in Jesus Christ left us to do for our discipleship. My last session for confirmation class ended on Wednesday. One thing hits home and that is the fact we are here to make a different world, not just make a difference.

"I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully know." Colossians 1: 25

"And whatever you do, in word and deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving that to God the Father through him." Colossians 3: 17

Serving and satisfaction. . . . , ain't nothing like it anywhere.

Keep your eye on the prize, it's always up.

In Christ's Great love,
Pastor Jan

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Our Church Celebrations

CONDE BIRTHDAYS

May 7 Jane Worlie
 May 10 Marion Jensen
 May 12 Diane Taylor
 May 16 Dwight Lyren
 May 25 Greg Bonn

CONDE ANNIVERSARIES

May 7 Eric and Anne Menzia
 May 25 Floyd and Carol Smith
 May 27 Arvon and Diane Taylor
 May 28 Grant and Janice Hanson
 May 30 Curtis and Cindy Haskell

GROTON BIRTHDAYS

May 1 Don Bartz
 May 2 Tom Sundling
 May 3 Kim Weber
 May 4 Desiree Morehouse
 Evan Erickson

Tom Strom
 May 5 Gary Thurston
 Marlee Jones
 May 6 Clint Jacobson
 Richard Ruden
 May 8 Austin Jones
 Dale Kramer
 John Lowary
 Rob Wanous

May 9 Gabbie Kramer
 May 11 Audrey Padfield
 May 13 Doris Strom
 May 14 Linda Johnson
 Pam Rix
 May 15 Charlotte Lange
 May 18 Jean Walter
 May 19 John Erickson
 May 20 Robert Hood
 May 21 Alex Brandt
 Cody Hanson

Jeremy Smith
 May 25 Jon Voss
 JR Johnson
 May 28 Wanda Zoellner
 May 29 Clare Brotherton
 DeLoris Knoll
 May 30 Hazel McKittrick
 Kami Lipp

GROTON ANNIVERSARIES

May 2 Dale & Michelle Kramer
 May 5 Tony & Brenda Madsen
 May 10 John & Anita Lowary
 May 12 Jack & Maggie Oliver
 May 15 Clarence & Ida Hannon
 May 17 Cliff & Carna Pray
 May 20 Tom & Kami Lipp
 May 27 Luverne & Carol Strom
 May 29 Gary & Anita Voss

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 70 on email prayer chain.



Groton currently has 70 families on the email prayer chain. If you wish to activate this, just email or call Kay or Jan for the request.



Sympathies to the family of Charles Thomas who passed away on March 25th.

80th Party!

Hazel McKittrick is celebrating her 80th birthday on Saturday, May 5th from 1-3pm at the Groton United Methodist Church. Greetings may be sent to 109 3rd Ave West, Groton, SD 57445. The honoree requests no gifts.

Conde Friendship Night

Conde United Methodist Women will host Friendship Night at the United Methodist Church in Conde on Wednesday evening, May 9th at 6:30 PM.

The evening will begin for everyone in the sanctuary with a depiction of "The Committee Meeting". As it is time for the annual church dinner and meeting, Sue and her committee get together to plan the event.

At times, it is difficult to maintain order as each member has ideas and suggestions as to how things

should be done. When asked to assume responsibility -- that makes for an interesting situation.

Salad lunch will be served to everyone immediately following the program . All are invited to attend. There is an admittance of \$6.00 which includes the program and lunch.

Patty Knoll is in charge of the program; Pat Siefken will plan decorations; and Cindy Smith is in charge of the lunch. Be sure to attend this interesting evening.

The Banquet

The Banquet and it's new facilities will be the destination on Monday June 4th for the members of Conde congregation and any others from Groton too. We want the parish to know that we are going to be serving and preparing a meal as well as providing most of the financial means to do so on that day. Conde has close to \$400.00 for the meal cost. There is always the possibility that others may join us in helping out with costs, transportation, and folks who want to go and serve. This is a mission where we really get to see Christ in others as we serve, feed and share in the love given to us from God. Come be part of the mission in Sioux Falls on that June day. You will not be the same and neither will our guests. Call Donna Hearnen if you can go, can drive, or want to contribute 382-5264.

CONDE DAYS TO REMEMBER

- May - Offerings for Banquet in Sioux Falls
- May 9 - 6:30 PM Friendship Night
- May 13 - Blanket Sunday; Mother's Day
- May 16 - Senior Breakfast
 - Conde United Methodist Women 2:00 PM Lesson, "How We Are Raced" led by Pat Siefken. Hostess, Patty Knoll.
 - Administrative Council 7:30 PM
- May 19 - 5:00 PM Conde Graduation
- May 21 - Bible School begins
- May 25 - Bible School Program 1:30 PM



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

Dakotas Annual Conference

DAKOTAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEGINS on Wednesday, June 6 with the Conference Banquet at the Ramkota in Sioux Falls. In addition to the reports and decisions to be made, there will be election of delegates to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference. This meeting will include hands-on mission experiences along with churches expected to tell of how they are involved in mission at home and throughout the world.

Breakfasts and luncheons are occasions to proceed with the work of various organizations within

the Conference. Many committees vital to the work will also meet to plan their work. Budget items will be discussed, with the budget for the next year adopted. Members will partake in worship services and the installation of clergy members.

Pastor Jan Price leads the Groton - Conde Parish delegation. Marva Gellhaus is Lay Member representing the parish; while Jolene Townsend and Betty Taylor are Lay Members at Large for Equalization in the Conference. The Annual Conference concludes on Saturday, June 9.

When God becomes real for us

The Jewish scholar and rabbi Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972) once said that God was either everywhere or nowhere. He meant that God was either in our world — our lives, our homes, schools, businesses, theaters, government, etc. — or God was nowhere. In short, the teacher believed that we must live in the presence of God in the most complete way or suffer the consequences of ignoring God, which would be a tragic world.

According to Dr. Heschel, “Only in His presence shall we learn that the glory of humankind is not in its will to power but in its power of compassion. We will reflect either the image of God’s presence or that of a beast. There can be no neutrality.”



MEMORIAL DAY

May 2007


Thank you to all who helped make UMW Focus Days a success!



The Groton Church Directory is in the final phase and will be printed in the next couple weeks with hopes of being available to those who turned in photos on Mother’s Day. It will also be available for download from the internet if you have a high speed connection as the file is quite large.

www.grotonsdchurches.com/umc/07Directory.pdf and the password to open the file is “church” The final draft will be on the internet by Mother’s Day. Thank you to all for helping make this project a success.

Groton UMW May Tea Party on Wheels
Wednesday
May 16 at 2:00 pm



Hostesses: All Members of Membership & Nurture Outreach: Pat Dahlquist, Gert Ruden, Kelli Hanson, and Marj Townsend



Groton UMW May Breakfast



Groton UMW May Breakfast was held on May 2nd. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a success! The program was by Renee Daly McKiver who shared her artistic talents and the stories behind her paintings and other creations.



Groton Graduates

May 13th Groton will honor our graduates.

- Seth Erickson
- Zachary Townsend
- Jennifer Miller
- Amber Wolken
- Amber Locke
- Andrew Davies



Groton Confirmation

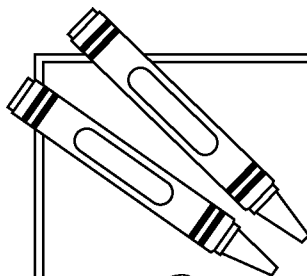
May 6th Groton will have Confirmation

- Dylan Hanson
- Cole Thurston
- Michaela Oleson
- Sydney Erickson
- Mitchell Madsen
- Katelyn Hawkins
- Casey Seelye



Groton Youth Activities

- Sunday School Sings in Church On May 13th, Mother's Day
- Bible School will be July 23-27 with Sidewalk Sunday School in the mornings.
- UMYF will have their last meeting until fall on May 2nd at 6:30 pm



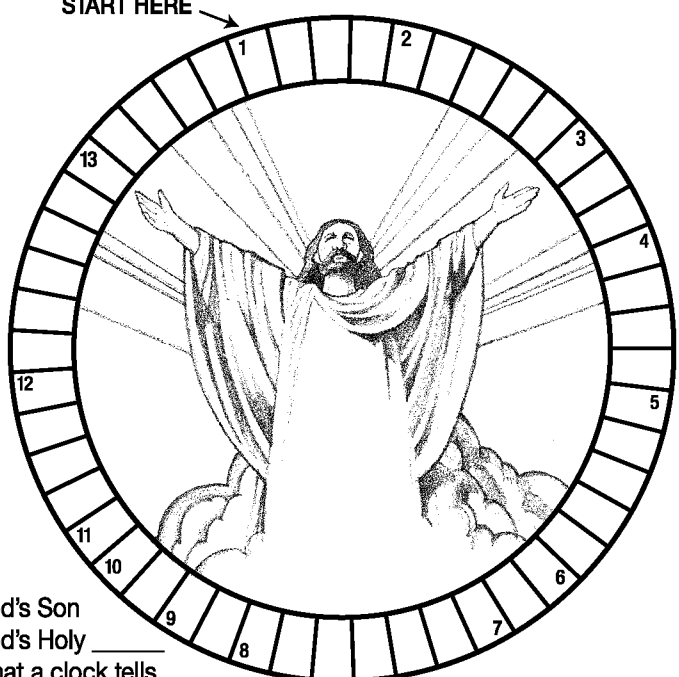
Just for KIDS

Ascension of the Lord

On the day Jesus left his disciples and went up in a cloud to heaven, he said to them, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:18, KJV).

Read the clues below. The last letter of each word is the beginning of the next word.

START HERE →



1. God's Son
2. God's Holy _____
3. What a clock tells
4. Our planet
5. Where Jesus is now
6. Opposite of Old Testament
7. An onlooker
8. Place to see clouds

9. Modern word for thee
10. Opposite of down
11. Authority or strength
12. Comes back
13. Searches for

Answers: 1) Jesus; 2) Spirit; 3) time; 4) Earth; 5) heaven; 6) new; 7) witness; 8) sky; 9) you; 10) up; 11) power; 12) returns; 13) seeks



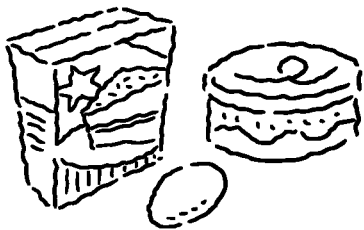
On giving and loving

The truth comes so often in simple sentences. For example, isn't it true that a person can give without real love or sympathy (maybe to impress others, for example) but one simply cannot love without giving? In fact, one of the clues to how much a person loves is how much he or she gives in terms of time, talent, friendship, service, encouragement and prayers on behalf of others.

Cloud Cookies

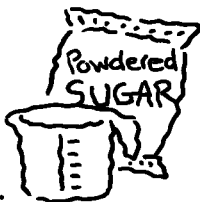
Jesus was “lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9, NRSV).

When you make these cloud cookies, remember what the angels said to his apostles: “This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven” (verse 11).



What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 white cake mix
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 container (6 oz.) of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 3 cups powdered sugar



What you do:

1. Combine cake mix and egg.
2. Fold in whipped topping.
3. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto powdered sugar and coat well.
4. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until tops are firm.



ASCENSION SUNDAY

In every conceivable manner, the family is the link to our past and the bridge to our future.

—Alex Haley



Let us not look back in anger or forward in fear, but around in awareness.

—James Thurber

The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness.

—Honoré de Balzac

A mother's example

When I think of my mom, especially on Mother's Day, I recall a scene I witnessed many times during my childhood.

Late at night, just before bedtime, my mother would sit in a rocking chair in the darkness with her head bowed in prayer. When it was nippy, the glow from the space heater revealed a lovely scene that fascinated me.

My bed wasn't far away, and just before I fell asleep I often saw my mother praying. Her face was beautiful and aglow. She radiated holiness and serenity, and I was deeply affected.

I never once talked to my mom about her prayer life. I was only 17 when she died. As traumatic as it was for me, I wonder if it weren't a rather easy transition for her. After all, she seemed to live with one foot in heaven.

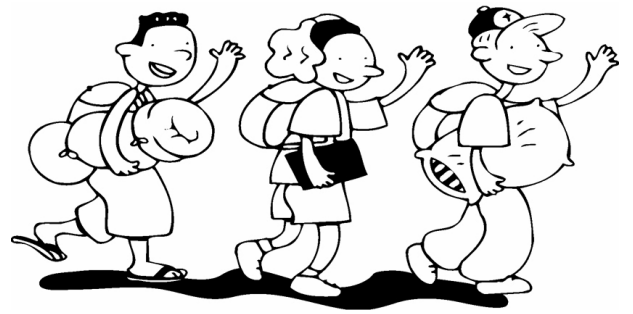
—Charles Ferrell



"I was leading a life above reproach when suddenly, gravity took over."

Groton Campers 2007

- Guitar Camp - Wesley Acres - July 8-13 – Martha Miller
- Sonshine #6 - Lake Poinsett - Aug 4-5 – Jolene Townsend, Jasmine Schinkel, CJ Barton, Claire Davidson, Caroline Graf, Alexander Graf
- Waves of Fun North – Wesley Acres - June 24-29 - Michaela Oleson
- Star Makers - Wesley Acres – June 4-10 - Alec Oleson
- Soul Survivors - Wesley Acres – July 29-Aug3 - Amanda Swenson, Sam Furman, Kristopher Oleson, and April Mettler
- LTC - Lake Poinsett – July 22-28 - Alexa Nilsson
- Basketball Basics - Wesley Acres – July 8-13 - Brady Graf



20 South Lake Drive
Arlington, SD 57212-8808

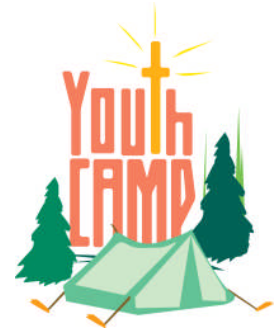
115th Ave. SE
Dazey, ND 58429-9733



LETTERS for CAMPERS



Kids love to receive letters at camp! So, here are the addresses and just send a day or two before they are to arrive at camp.



Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday



A fresh look at Holy Communion

A minister was having lunch with a retired college professor when the professor said that he looked upon Communion as a form of cannibalism. The pastor was so astounded that he decided to examine the meaning of the sacrament again.

His reexamination of the meaning of the Lord's Supper yielded these thoughts:

1. Communion is extremely important because Jesus asked his followers to follow the practice often – in remembrance of him. (See Luke 22:19) Was that a request we should ignore?

2. Communion is significant because it reminds us of the price Christ paid for our salvation – his death on the cross. “This is my body, which is given for you” (Luke 22:19, NRSV).

3. It is also a symbol of the new covenant which God has made with us in Christ. Upon taking the cup of wine, our Lord said, “This is my blood of the new covenant” (Matthew 26:28, NRSV). He is our Lord. Communion helps us remember that we are his people, servants of the covenant-maker.

4. The sacrament is a vivid reminder that we are grateful that we are tied to Christ and look forward to his ultimate triumph on Earth. We partake of Communion joyfully, thanking God for the gift of Christ and anticipating his final victory when he shall be known worldwide as “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:16, NRSV).

Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day, the third Saturday of May, is a time to remember and appreciate people who have served or who are now serving in the military.

Today, service members are volunteers who willingly leave their families and homes to serve as protectors, defenders and servants of our beloved country. Their roles often involve great danger, perilous missions and harm to their bodies, minds and spirits.

Let those in military service know that you appreciate their service and sacrifice on behalf of America. Pray for them, speak appreciatively to them and let them know of your support.

Consider this ministry

Since its inception in 1976, Habitat for Humanity has built more than 200,000 houses around the world for the poor and homeless. More than one million people now have their own decent, affordable homes because of this Christian enterprise.

Habitat homes are not “given” freely. To preserve their dignity, people expecting a home must participate in the building of the house. Homeowners-to-be must make a down payment and be able to pay a monthly mortgage. But low-income families chosen for a Habitat home pay no interest on loans received.

The organization is ecumenical and nondiscriminatory with more than 2,100 Habitat affiliates throughout the world, including 92 countries and all 50 states of the United States.

Home-building volunteers are always needed. To learn more, go to www.Habitat.org.



New Groton
Members
Pernell & Noella
Graf



Groton Finances

If you have been keeping track of the stewardship report this year, you have noticed the average weekly giving has fallen short of the our budget needs every month. Because of this large shortfall, we have only been able to pay 1 1/2 months apportionments to the Conference. Conference apportionments are not just for operating expenses but they support many

global missions as well. And we are barely paying the monthly bills.

Please pray and thank God for the many ways he has blessed you and give generously to support our church so that it may continue to do his work. We want our church to continue to work and grow for future generations.

Electronic Giving - Groton

Some of you have asked about electronic, or automated, option for giving. Now we are going to offer it! Easy and simple for you, Electronic Giving allows your weekly or monthly contributions to be transferred electronically from your checking or savings account directly to the church account. While away on vacation, you have peace of mind knowing that you are continuing to contribute to the mission of the church. One simple and easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contribution amount. This form is available from Anita or Kay. Sign up today!

| Groton Stewardship Report April 2007 | |
|---|---------|
| Average Wkly Giving | \$1,464 |
| Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs | \$1,742 |
| Average Weekly Attendance | 77 |
| Total Building Fund Offerings | \$140 |

What are the grown-ups doing?

A Sunday school teacher was teaching a group of youngsters about the Israelites in the Old Testament. She kept referring to the Jews as the “children of Israel.”

A little girl interrupted her, wanting permission to ask a question. “Certainly,” the teacher responded.

“Well,” the child said, “you keep talking about the children of Israel. The children of Israel crossed the Red Sea. The children of Israel built the temple. The children of Israel did this and did that. Didn’t the grown-ups ever do anything?”

Questions: What are we grown-ups doing to show that we are faithful children of God today? What is our mission? What is our calling? What does the Lord require of us to prove that we are God’s loving and serving children today?



Body and soul

A physically strong woman exercises her body regularly. A spiritually strong woman prays throughout the day as she works or serves or sits quietly in the presence of God. Some women keep both body and soul in the best shape possible. This behavior sets an example for everyone.

—Source unknown

Groton Ad Council Meeting Minutes - April

- Finance: There was much discussion regarding our past due apportionment payments. A suggestion was made and approved to make Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT) available to members. This may help to keep a more steady flow of giving throughout the year as well as keeping pace with our changing financial world of managing money.
- Nurture: Preparations are under way to honor both the confirmation students on May 6 and the high school graduates on May 13. It was also

reported that the children will be singing in honor of Mother's Day on May 13. Also plans are for Sidewalk Sunday school to be held July 23-27.

- Youth Fellowship: It was reported that there is a lot of interest in summer camping opportunities among the youth. The board voted to pay 100% of each child's camping costs as they feel very strongly about the value of this activity.



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

Groton June Family Committee

**JoAnn & Richard Krueger
Michelle & Chuck Padfield**

- Twila Ruden
- Joyce & Allen Walter
- Kay & Ben Brandt
- Crystal & Doug Sippel
- Ruby & Eugene Luce
- Marjorie & Russell Townsend
- Darlys Kampa
- Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt
- Pat Dahlquist
- Rodney Boehmer
- Carolyn & Robert Snyder (June/Aug)
- Jane & Marc Johnson, Tanner (Dec/Feb)



Honorary Members

- Jean Lowary
- Ruby Fuller
- Emery Sippel
- Lorraine Bartz
- Herron Smith
- Doris Strom

June Extra Responsibilities

- Mow the Lawn Weekly
- Clean Chapel & Library
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Optional)
- June 3rd, Trinity Sunday, Change the altar cloths to white and hang communion banners for this Sunday only
- June 10th change the altar cloths to green and hang monthly banners

| June 2007 | | | | | | |
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| May 2007 | | | | | | |
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| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |



Our Church Happenings

May 5 Hazel McKittrick 80th birthday celebration 1-3pm

May 6 Confirmation Sunday

May 7 Groton Kitchen Tune-Up Starts

May 9 Friendship Night at Conde 6:30 pm

May 13 Mother's Day

Honor Graduates

Groton Sunday School Sings in Church

Conde Blanket Sunday

May 16 Conde UMW 2:00 pm

Groton UMW "Tea Party on Wheels" 2:00 pm

Groton Ad Council 7:00 pm

May 20 Conde Ad Council after Church

May 21 Conde Bible School Begins

May 25 Conde Bible School Program 1:30 PM

June 4 The Banquet in Sioux Falls

June 6 Dakotas Annual Conference Begins

July 23-27 Groton Sidewalk Sunday School in the AM

More details in bulletin on Mother's Day! And in June Newsletter.