



# United Methodist Messenger

April 2012

Groton/Conde Parishes

## Dear Friends in Groton and Conde

Easter has arrived and just like that BOOM! Lent is over with, done, kaput. As sudden as a 1000lb stone being rolled away from the opening of a tomb the world has changed. The time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ is here. And our spirits feel renewed.

We now share the story of Christ's victory over sin and death through his resurrection. How do you connect with the story? What does it mean to you? Has it all become all too routine for you? Are you able to still appreciate the undeniable love of God? Or have you become dried up and cynical? Have you found yourself saying that Easter (like Christmas) is just for the kids? Does any of this sound familiar?

Sometimes we wonder if God is even listening or even there. Combine that wonderment with the fact that life's disappointments and pain can deter us from experiencing pure joy and there you have it, a perfect recipe for cynicism and the feeling that God has forgotten us or that the church is no longer relevant for us. Sound familiar?

The truth on the other hand, is this. God hasn't moved. God hasn't left the church. The spirit continues to work. Often reality hits us and we realize that we have become too caught up with our lifestyles or allowed the pain and disappointments of life to fester and have forgotten to make time to renew our relationship with God and each other.

Friends if this is true for you, believe me I truly know how you feel. I have been there in your shoes. The truth is that if I didn't have people praying for me, if I didn't acknowledge God's grace through persistence and endurance through seminary and provisional training, it's quite possible that I myself might have left the church. There were times when belief in God didn't seem to make sense. There were times when the church seemed to have lost its' relevance in an every changing world.

But what made all the difference was submitting to the workings of the Holy Spirit and making myself open and available for God to work in my life. And those times when my spirit seemed to drift from God and I felt a spiritual deadness within, the power of God's resurrecting spirit lifted me up and restored my faith. HAPPY EASTER!!!

I look forward to seeing you in church,  
Pastor Matt



"Faith does not struggle; faith lets God do it all."  
—Corrie ten Boom



Maundy Thursday Service in Conde at 5 pm and in Groton at 7 pm.

Good Friday Service in Groton is at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church at noon

Good Friday Service in Conde at 7 pm.

Groton Easter Sunrise Service is at 7 pm with regular church at 11 am.

Conde will have Easter Church at 9 am.

### Groton May Breakfast

The Groton United Methodist Women's May Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the church with two seating times. The times are 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. This year's theme is "A Walk on the Wild Side" with the program consisting of a duet by Kari Hanson and Macy Knecht, singing "Dr. Doolittle"; a group of Show Choir girls, singing "Jungle Love"; and a talk by Jeff Stohr.

Rose Tewksbury and Pat Dahlquist are general chairpersons. Other committee members are as follows: Caralee Heitmann, program and MC; Jane Johnson, Yvonne Lange, and Carol Knecht, door prizes; Linda Thurston, Eugenia Strom, and Desiree Morehouse, table

setting; Kim Weber, Chris Nyberg, Diann Morehouse, and Marva Gellhaus, decorations; Gloria Pharis, Marjorie Overacker, Jeanne Wanous, and Jolene Townsend, kitchen; Clare Brotherton and DeLoris Knoll, reservations; Sharon Wheeting, Anita Lowary, Jan Raap, and JoAnn Krueger, dining room; Doris Zoellner and Darlys Kampa, coffee; Twila Ruden, Kay Brandt, and Jessica Morehouse, advertising; Jeanne Wanous and Clare Brotherton, registration table; and Kelli Hanson and volunteers, cleanup.

For reservations call Clare Brotherton at 397-8177 or Deloris Knoll at 397-2681



Wyatt Wayne Morehouse Baptism/Blessings Shower is April 15 during coffee hour at the Groton UMC. He is the son of Jesse & Julie Morehouse born on February 21st.



## Groton UMW March

The Groton United Methodist Women met Wednesday March 21 at 2 p.m. with fifteen members present. President Gloria Pharis began meeting with the unit reciting the UMW Purpose. Doris Zoellner read devotions with a passage from Mark based on the idea of spending time alone in a quiet place with the Lord and he will see you through the storms of life.

The minutes were read and approved. There was no financial report and no new bills were presented. There was no program.

Old business was a review of Focus Days to be held April 14<sup>th</sup> with Groton hosting the event. It will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. with morning and afternoon coffee along with a noon salad luncheon. A sign-up sheet was passed around for food and various jobs.

It was discussed that following the May Breakfast cards might be offered in the afternoon. This would be considered as a social function that does not include alcohol, smoking, or firearms. With this offering, it might lend itself to more reservations at the second seating. It appears there will have to be more planning, discussion, and consideration of this plan. Gloria asked for 9

by 13 tupperware pans with lids which are needed at the church by April 29<sup>th</sup>.

The May Breakfast is May 2.

Gloria read a letter from the new president of the Eastern Sunrise Circuit, Sandy Marquardt, who urged UMW members to attend their local Focus Day because of all the fun and inspiration you'll receive there. She also reminded us we are in Mission and that the local unit is the heart of the UMW organization. Also from the Circuit, Marjorie Townsend shared from Membership and Nurture we need to stop and visit friends that aren't able to get out much and you'll find it will make their day. From Spiritual Growth Doris Zoellner reminded us that lent and fasting have long been a tradition of Methodist practice. Sharon Wheeting stated with the reading program this year we need books from 5 categories.

A delicious dessert with a St. Patrick's Day theme was served by Jan Raap and Audrey Thurston. The next meeting is April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. with the program by Carna Ruden. Hostesses are Gloria Pharis and Sharon Wheeting.

## Roadblock

"We can depend on God to fulfill his promise, even when all the roads leading to it are closed," wrote Bible commentator Matthew Henry about 300 years ago.

For the disciples on Good Friday, all the roads had closed and the gates were barred shut. Jesus was dead — and with him, their hope. In fear and grief, they locked themselves in an upper room.

But soon they discovered the tomb was empty. The grave wasn't the end. Even death wasn't strong enough to thwart God's plans. Easter is proof that no situation is hopeless. God offers a way through every type of roadblock.

—Kari Myers

## Groton UMW

**April 18th**

**2 pm Weds**

**Program**

**"Women's Health Services" by**

**Carna Atherton-**

**Pray**

**Hostesses**

**Sharon Wheeting**

**& Gloria Pharis**

**Conde UMW**

**April 18**

**10 am Weds**

**Program Focus**  
**"Healing: Deaconesses and Home Missioners"**  
**Leader Pat Siefken**

**Hostesses**  
**Jane Worlie &**  
**Betty Jensen**

**Conde MISSION STATEMENT**

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

### Our Church Celebrations

**Groton**

- Apr 3 Marc Johnson
- Apr 4 Mitchell Madsen  
Sue Stanley
- Apr 5 Irene Breitzkreutz  
Wyatt Kurtz
- Apr 7 Reilly Ell
- Apr 8 Lon Gellhaus
- Apr 10 Martha Miller  
Pauline Luce
- Apr 13 Jessica Morehouse
- Apr 14 Reta Washnok  
Toby Dobbins
- Apr 15 Brady Graf  
Nolan Bahr

- Apr 16 Kristi Peterson  
Rodney Boehmer  
Terry & Lynette Furman

- Apr 18 Dylan Vogel  
Merrie Atherton

- Apr 20 Marlys Rodman

- Apr 24 Max Suther

- Apr 28 Kevin Pharis

**Conde**

- Apr 14 Dylan Stark

- Apr 18 Loren Siefken

- Apr 22 Curtis Haskell

- Brandon Schlosser

- Mary Ann Watts

- Apr 28 Jim Baldrige



**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



### Celebrating Their Confirmation



**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, and Ryland Strom.

## Native American Ministries Sunday - April 22

Spiritual Connections is a youth-mentoring project of the faith-based **Sacred Pathways Inc.** in Robeson County, N.C., that provides food and other basic needs to low-income people. While its roots are among the Lumbee people, the project is racially diverse, like the county it serves.

Supported by United Methodists through the **Native American Ministries Sunday offering**, Sacred Pathways counsels and nurtures young people, teaching them to work cross-culturally to improve their lives and their communities. That includes seeking answers to widespread poverty and decreasing numbers of school dropouts, teen pregnancies and gangs.

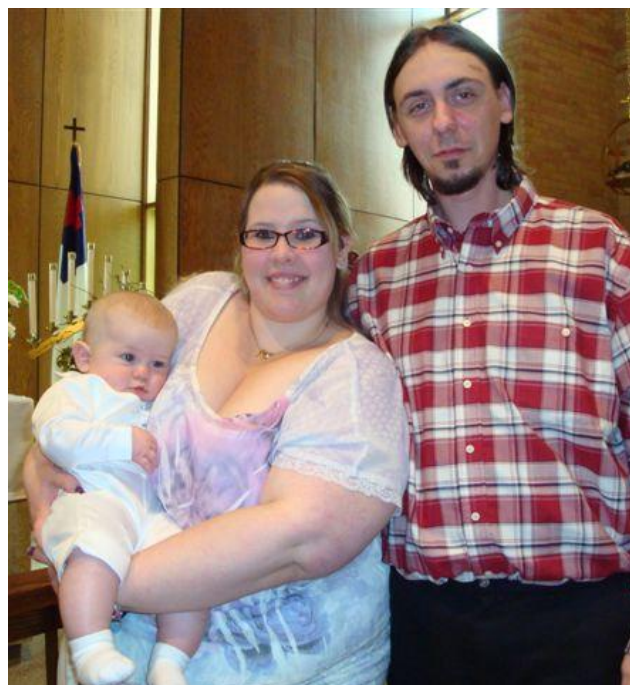
Members of the interracial Youth Leadership Cabinet, drawn from area high schools, learn critical thinking skills, team building, self-esteem and personal goal setting. They also learn to respond creatively to concerns such as saving the environment and fighting global hunger and homelessness.

“This program taught me so much that I will take with me wherever I go,” says Lauren Oxendine, 19, who made new friends and discovered a passion for community service as a cabinet member. “I want to broaden my horizons, share my culture and all that I’ve learned, and try to show people there can be a better life for everybody.”

Your gifts on **Native American Ministries Sunday** fund ministries that pave the way for those who aspire to serve Christ’s church by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Because of your generosity, young people like Lauren discover a world worth saving, congregations become stronger, seminarians prepare to serve, and communities are transformed.



LEFT  
Rachel Dobbins  
was baptized  
March 18.  
Parents are  
Angela &  
Perryn Dobbins



RIGHT  
Austyn Burton  
was baptized  
March 25.  
Parents are  
Trista & DJ  
Burton

## Missionary Angelica Laudermitth

Friends and Family~

There is so much always going on in Haiti, many different activities to share. But yesterday I spent some time at my house because my back has been hurting. Although, it wasn't like I was really relaxing. After breakfast we got a call from Lee that he needed to borrow our water barrel from the house, for the construction of the new primary school. Much to my surprise and joy, I looked over at the water barrel and it was full of water. I knew that rain on the tin roof had woke me up and kept me up for part of the night but I had no idea just how much. So the next hour or more was spent scrubbing gallon water jugs that used to hold oil and had been tossed to the side of the kitchen. I sat down on a little chair to the ground and filled a tub of water with soap and bleach and scrubbed and scrubbed. Papi rinsed and Philo and he filled the gallon jugs with water. There were at least 2 dozen plus a couple 5 gallon Culligan jugs and 5 gallon buckets. After it was all said and done we had a lot of water and an empty barrel. I even wore a silly hat because the family was worried about all the sun I was getting. In the afternoon one of the teams on the mountain came to shop in the Art Gallery.

You never know what the day will look like exactly. I have a schedule of English Classes, Typing classes, and Literacy Art Class; but beyond that it is an adventure. Lately I have been trying to be adventurous in the kitchen too for cooking different types of foods. Last night we ate cheese-burgers. It was incredible and very American feeling. Today I most definitely want my good ol' rice and beans. I have also made Alfredo, Eggplant parmesan, and egg salad sandwiches. Eugenie (Gabriel) is an amazing cook and has also done Lasagna, pizza, and ham salad sandwiches; soon we are going to make some Stroganoff. Eugenie is very excited to learn new foods to cook and I am constantly amazed at what she is capable of cooking over charcoal.

Typing classes are going well. We have

just started with the Living Media Staff and some friends (that I had started with last year); but word has gotten out and I have had many people ask me about them. We have 4 laptops left for LMI to use after Haiti Hope House (HHH) finished with a basic computer class at our center. It was a true blessing and has opened up a new world of possibilities for some of the young people in the community; with a plan for a future computer lab we will be able to have more classes.

The Art/Craft class started with some of the ladies from the Creole Literacy class is going well too. Trying to work with them on how art can be used as a medium for expressing yourself and maybe making an impact on your community. For too long what they know about art/crafts is the price. This does make sense in a community of a job shortage; however art could be both self expressions, have a meaning and have a good price for selling. It has been so beautiful to watch them work and discover. Last week we just played with shapes. We had markers, chalk, pipe cleaners, and play dough donated by previous teams. They were very excited to make letters out of pipe cleaners and play dough being proud of their knowledge of the letters.

I am always energized by my English Classes every weekend and always looking for different activities to help them learn in creative ways. That is much of the rest of my time in Haiti – I spend researching and studying how I can help the students better. I have learned to adore reading it helps me soak up so much knowledge and is a bit of an escape when needed.

Thank you as always for your donations and prayers. I feel blessed everyday to be able to do this work. Hope this finds you well and hopeful for the future.

Blessings~

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

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





### Groton Sunday School Schedule

April:

- 1st: Sunday School & Sing in Church (Psalm Sunday)
- 8th: No Sunday School (Easter)
- 15th: Sunday School
- 22nd: Sunday School
- 29th: Sunday School

May:

- 6th: Sunday School
- 13th: Sunday School & Sing in Church (Mother's Day)
- 20-23rd: Vacation Bible School



### Sink or swim

When a boat started sinking, the skipper shouted, "Does anybody know how to pray?"

One man confidently answered, "Yes, I do."

The captain nodded. "That's good then," he said. "You go ahead and pray. The rest of us will put on life jackets. We're one short."



## The purpose of the gospel

The gospel of John records many signs and miracles that Jesus performed in front of his disciples. Discover why these were written.



Directions: Use a Bible to fill in the missing letters of John 20:31. Then write the shape-enclosed letters in the corresponding boxes and circles below, in order of appearance, to discover John's message.

"...  e  ie  e  hat  es  u s

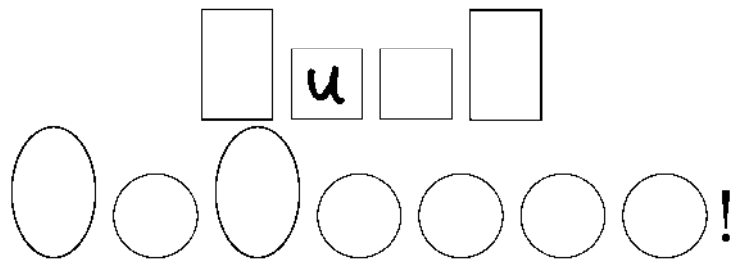
is th   es  iah, the S  n

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JOHN 20:31, NIV



Answers: "... believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." Just Believe!

Camp Books are in! Registration Deadline is April 22. Please see Kay Brandt about registering. Do this as early as you can!



**In God's hands**

We are not the masters of our own destinies. We are called to plan and strategize, to work and live active lives, to attempt things that are beyond us and tackle challenges that stretch us to the limit. Yet the outcome of our efforts, even our ability to exert ourselves, is always in God's hands.  
 —Carolyn Custis James, *The Gospel of Ruth*

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

**Groton Stewardship Report March 2012**

Average Wkly Giving  
\$2,568

Needed Wkly for Church Mission  
\$2,045

Average Weekly Attendance  
81

Total Building Fund Donations  
\$55

**Spring fever**

Four high school students afflicted with spring fever skipped their morning classes. After lunch, the boys told their teacher they'd had a flat tire.  
 Much to the boys' relief, the teacher smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test, so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper."  
 Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said, "First question: Which tire was flat?"



**Groton May Family Committee**

- Anita & John Lowary**  
**Brian & Andrea Bahr**  
 Connie & Dave Nilsson  
 Logan Nilsson  
 John & Meri Erickson, Sydney  
 Kayla & Adam Suther  
 Adrienne & Tigh Flihs  
 Pam & Doug Bahr  
 Dion Bahr  
 William & Wanda Zoellner  
 Steve & Becky Diegel  
 Shirley Lawson  
 Bert & Janice Raap

- Honorary Members**
- Doris Strom
  - Emery Sippel
  - Ida Hannon
- May Extra Responsibilities**
- Mow Lawn if needed
  - May 27 change altar cloths to red
  - Potluck 2nd Sunday
  - On 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to Kay Brandt



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		





**April 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					

***Our Church Happenings***

- Apr 1 Groton Camp Sunday - Registration Deadline April 22
- Apr 3 Conde Lenten Study 6:30 pm
- Apr 5 Conde Maundy Thurs Service 5 pm
- Apr 5 Groton Maundy Thurs Service 7 pm
- Apr 6 Groton Good Friday Service 12 noon at Emmanuel Lutheran
- Apr 6 Conde Good Friday Service at 7 pm
- Apr 8 Groton Sunrise Service at 7 am followed by Continental Breakfast
- Apr 8 Groton Church at 11 am and Conde at 9 am
- Apr 9 Groton Missions Committee Mtg 5:30
- Apr 11 Groton Membership Committee Mtg 1:30 pm
- Apr 14 UMW Focus Days 8:30 am - 3 pm at Groton UMC
- Apr 15 Groton Baptism/Blessing Shower Wyatt Morehouse
- Apr 15 Groton Ad Council 12:30
- Apr 18 Conde UMW 10 am
- Apr 18 Groton UMW 2 pm
- Apr 22 Native American Ministries Sunday
- Apr 29 Groton Wedding Blessings Shower for Dion Bahr & Samantha Bunke
- May 6 Confirmation Sunday