



United Methodist Messenger

FEBRUARY 2014

GROTON/CONDE PARISHES

Dear Friends in Groton & Conde

These winter months, these doldrums are the worst; this period of time that spans between New Years and Lent. It's as if time has stopped, the excitement of Christmas and New Years is over, and the intentional spiritual discipline of Lent has yet to begin. It makes me think of a massive ship with sails out in the ocean with no wind. It's not going anywhere. It's stuck. Perhaps that's why someone invented Valentine's Day, another opportunity to feel some sort of excitement in an otherwise dull time of year.

The darkness of winter wears on us; the bitter cold is seemingly never ending. I have heard many of you talking about being ready for spring already and mentioning the heightened levels of cabin fever. I am glad I am not alone in this. It's good to have a sense of solidarity and community. In fact those are essential needs that all of us have as humans to feel connected to others.

The apostle Paul writes this, "... you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone." We don't normally think of ourselves according to these terms. If someone asks us if we're a Christian, we may say, "yes I am." Or we might respond by saying, "I believe in God." But we often seem to forget that we are connected to community of believ-

ers much larger than just our local congregations.

This faith connection isn't simply based on location but also a timeline reaching back hundreds even thousands of years. In fact our little section on the timeline of Christianity is just a little blip on that scale. Indeed the household of God is much larger than what we might like to admit. We like things "our way," we like to have our own sense of autonomy and power. We forget that our faith is not just our faith but something that has been handed down and shared through generations.

On these dark and sometimes lonely winter nights, remember that in Christ you are part of something that spans a millennium of time. Read some scripture, perhaps the book of Acts as it details the beginnings of the early Christian movement and church. Consider studying John Wesley and read some his sermons which were written during a time of political and socio-economic stress.

May you be led by the Holy Spirit in finding faith connections that help you grow as a disciple. And may you celebrate the rich heritage and legacy of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I look forward to seeing you in church,
Pastor Matt



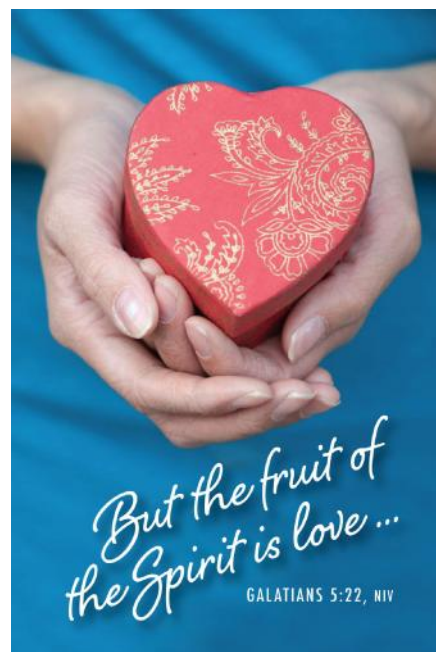
Thank You

For all involved, very humbling from our hearts. Your kindness means so much! Keep praying as its been a rough week. God Bless - God is good!!! Katie & Cameron Walter

God Bless you all OXOX Wow!
Theresa Cameron



Thank you so much for thinking of us during this difficult time. With your generosity, we were able to get back on our feet and enjoy the holiday season. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. Thank you so very much, Angel & Bill Feiock



Groton Congratulations

Huntley Hale Overacker was born Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 5:44 pm. He weighed 8 lbs 0 ozs. And was 19 1/2 inches long. Parents are Jesse & Jaymie



Love Gauge

In a ship's engine room, it's impossible to look into the great boiler and see how much water remains. But running up beside it is a tiny glass tube that serves as a gauge. As the water stands in the little tube, so it stands in the great boiler. When the tube is half full, the boiler is half full; when the tube is empty, the boiler is empty.

Do you ask, "How do I know I love God? I believe I love him, but I want to know." Look at the gauge: Your love for other people is the measure of your love for God.

—S.S. Chronicle

Conde UMW Mtg

February 19 at 10 am
Community Valentine's Party



Conde Bible Study

Lenten Study will begin March 5 after the Ash Wednesday service and will then continue weekly on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm.

The study will be "The Way" by Adam Hamilton. We will travel with Adam Hamilton as he retraces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Conde Ad Council Notes

- Christmas Eve offering was divided between the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield and the Salvation Army in Aberdeen
- Special donation was given to needs in the Conde area
- Community Fat Tuesday pancake meal will be served on March 4 from 5:00 until 7:00
- Ash Wednesday service on March 5 @ 10:30
- Lenten study will begin on March 5 after Ash Wednesday service and continue to meet on Thurs nights @ 6:30, The study will be 'The Way' by Adam Hamilton
- UMW Sunday on March 9
- Good Friday (April 18) services will be held @ 6:00
- Next meeting will be held on March 4

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

PPR Meeting

Monday, Feb 3rd at 7pm in Groton. Members are Roger Rix, Bud Bruckner, Pat Siefken, Meri Erickson, Carna Atherton-Pray, Betty Geist, Andrea Bahr, Lon Gellhaus, Greg Peterson, Dale Kramer, Marjorie Overacker, Patty Knoll and Chris Nyberg.

Groton Memorial Mtg

Will meet on Sunday, March 2, at 10 am. This includes. Meri Erickson, Alan Strom, Gloria Pharis, Brenda Madsen, Sharon Wheeting, and Jan Raap



Jill's Pork Tenderloin

Who's Jill? Well, this is the dish Robin O'Neill brought to the potluck. It is called Jill's because it went around on Facebook from someone named Jill? Enjoy!

3# pork tenderloin, in 4 pieces
1# bacon
3/4 c soy sauce
1 T minced onions
1/2 t garlic salt
1 T wine vinegar, white vinegar
1/4 t salt
dash pepper
3/4 c light brown sugar

- Wrap tenderloin in bacon. Place in 8.5 x 11 pan. Poke holes in meat with fork.
- In a small bowl, combine other ingredients. Stir well. Pour over meat. Refrigerate, uncovered 2-3 hours or overnight.
- Bake at 350 for 2-3 hours. If the bacon burns, place foil over the top after approximately 1.5 hours. Remove from oven and cut meat into small pieces and allow the meat to soak up excess juices.



Groton UMW Meeting
February 19
1:30 pm

Program by Linda Thurston

Hostesses Doris Zoellner and
Darlys Kampa

Upcoming Events

World Day of Prayer - March 7 at the Groton
UMC

UMW Sunday is March 9



Groton UMW - January

Eleven members were present as new President Jolene Townsend gave the Program "A Calling For This Time" with the idea of a new year and a new you etc.

Marge Overacker gave Devotions based on Epiphany and Matthew. Correspondence was shared and consisted of thank-you notes from the following: Charlotte Lange for her Jewel of a Woman pin, Jan Raap for Recognition pin, Salvation Army and Safe Harbor for monetary donations through Missions, Ida Hannon, Benny Schaller, Twyla Ruden, Doris Strom, Edna Stange, and Emery Sippel for Christmas treats made and delivered by UMW members. Marj Townsend gave verbal thank-you to all who remembered her during her recent illness.

Committee reports: Spiritual Growth each person present was given a name and were to act as that person's personal angel to send a card or pray for during the month of January. New names will be handed out at each new meeting. From Membership and Nurture Outreach Jolene would like to see the idea of encouraging and reaching out to more women to join UMW become a focus. Cards were also sent to members who have had health issues and Valentine Cards sent to those members who are out of town or just that they are in our thoughts. Under Social Action Jolene reminded us that it's been fifty years since the first warnings came out about smoking.

Old business consisted of a report on the lefse sales being very successful. New business was a report on The World Day of Prayer given by Marge Overacker which will be hosted by the Groton Methodist Church on Mar. 7. UMW Sunday will be held on March 9. President Jolene ended the business meeting with a prayer.

A delicious lunch was served by Kay Brandt and Marj Townsend. The next meeting will Feb. 19 at 2pm with Linda Thurston giving the program. Hostesses will be Darlys Kampa and Doris Zoellner.

Our Church Celebrations

Groton

Feb 4 KayLynn Overacker
Tim Olson
Feb 5 Andrea & Brian Bahr
Feb 7 Gary Voss
Feb 8 Gage Sippel
Larry Wheeting
Feb 10 Brenda Madsen
Dion Bahr
June Thompson
Alan & Jolene Townsend
Feb 12 Skylar Kramer
Yvonne Lorenz
Feb 14 Adam Suther
Diane Nissen
Feb 16 Pernell Graf
Feb 18 Chuck & Michelle Padfield
Feb 19 Robin O'Neill
Gaylene Voss
Feb 20 Michael Wells
Feb 21 Wyatt Morehouse
Feb 22 Anthony Schinkel
Feb 25 Brent Morehouse
Greg Heitmann
Feb 26 Mary Ann Wehde
Feb 28 Paisley Mitchell

Conde

Feb 4 Donna Walter
Feb 5 Richard Sanderson
Feb 7 Bill Trapp
Feb 9 Vicki Stark
Feb 10 Greg & Vicki Stark
Feb 15 Time & Betty Geist
Feb 19 Tyler Stark
Feb 20 Jim & Judy Zeck
Feb 22 Betty Jensen
Horace Walter



Groton UMC

Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Doris Zoellner	397-2417
Marjory Townsend	298-5221
Ann Rix	397-8478
Darlys Kampa	395-6996
DeLoris Knoll	397-2681
Gloria Pharis	397-2375

*If you are not on this list or the email prayer chain, 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.

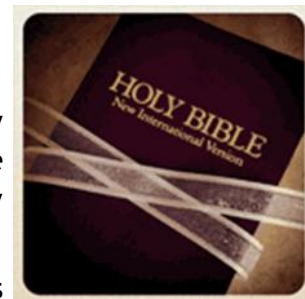
Unwrap the Gift

At church one Sunday, I noticed a woman carrying a Bible neatly wrapped in colorful ribbon, like a package. My first thought was that she must be giving it to someone as a present.

Throughout the next few weeks, however, I realized that was the woman's own well-used Bible. Whenever

a worship service or Bible study ended, she carefully rewrapped the Scriptures with that shimmery strand.

What a great reminder that God's Word is a precious, practical gift meant to be opened and reopened regularly. —Stephanie Martin





Groton Lenten Season Starts

The family committees will be in charge of serving the Lenten Supper each week from 5:30 - 6:15. The Lenten Service will follow in the sanctuary at 6:15.

March 5 - Jan Committee

March 12 - Feb Committee

March 19 - April Committee

April 2 - May Committee

April 9 - June Committee

The work committee is responsible to prepare, serve, and clean-up. Soup & sandwiches are typically served but other choices are optional. Prepare for 50 people. Take a free-will offering which should be turned over to Anita Lowary or Kay Brandt. It will help defray any costs of the meal. Groceries may be charged or receipts given to Kay for reimbursement.



Groton 10 AM Bible Study

The Lenten Study we are doing is by Adam Hamilton called "The Way" Plans are to start the study on February 25 but please watch the bulletin for updates. That is the plan but the weather this winter can always change that. Please join us for this 6 week study. Here is Adam Hamilton's description of this study.

In this book I will focus on the life and teachings of Jesus. I will help you hear the familiar stories with fresh ears by drawing upon insights from history, archaeology, and the geography of the Holy Land.

You will travel with me to the Jordan River, where Jesus likely was baptized, and to the Judean wilderness, where he was tempted. We'll walk among the ruins of Capernaum, where Jesus made his home during his three years of public ministry. We'll climb the mountain where Jesus may have given his most famous sermon. We'll take a boat onto the Sea of Galilee. And I'll show you Jacob's Well, where Jesus offered an outcast a drink of living water. Finally, we'll recall the last week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem, where these events occurred.

I hope that this journey, walking in the footsteps of Jesus, will deepen your understanding of Jesus' life, while at the same time deepening your faith in him and your love for him.

Adam Hamilton

SHARE JESUS
WITH A FRIEND

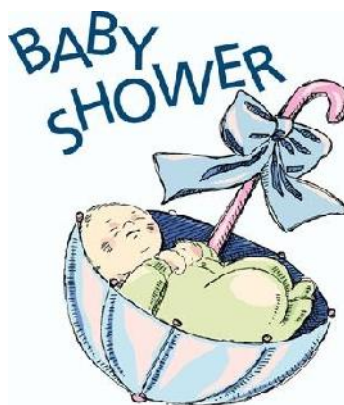
Open House Bridal Shower

Saturday, February 15, from 9-11 am there will be an Open House Bridal Shower to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Desiree Morehouse and Corey Foltz. They are planning an April 5th wedding. Event will be in the Groton UMC Fellowship Hall.



Open House Baby Shower

Saturday, February 8, from 2-4 pm there will be an Open House Baby Shower to celebrate a new baby that is expected to arrive soon. Parents to be are Amanda & Justin Morehouse. Event will be in the Groton UMC Fellowship Hall.



Groton Missions Committee Mtg

The Missions Committee will meet during coffee hour at 10:15 am. Committee Members are Karla Pasteur, Zachary Townsend, Kami Lipp, Kay Brandt, Richard Krueger, JoAnn Krueger, AM Mitchell, Laurie Mitchell, Becky Diegel, and Merrie Ather-ton. Please be thinking of one event we could do to raise funds for Easter Baskets.

BE
MINEONLY
YOU

HUGS

DEAR
ONESURE
LOVETRUE
LOVELOVE
YOUIT'S
LOVEONE I
LOVEYOU
& ME

AMORE

Groton Sunday School

We have started up again with Sunday School and welcome everyone back. Again as a reminder Sunday School is offered this winter and spring to preschool age (ages 3 and 4) through **6th grade students**. Sunday School starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 10:55 a.m. Church follows immediately after Sunday School at 11:00 a.m. The students have cookies and a beverage in their class rooms and while they are off doing great things in Sunday School, cookies and beverages are offered for adults in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for great fellowship!

We will be taking an offering each Sunday and this winter and spring our collections will go toward the purchase or improvement of playground equipment in our community.

Sunday School will be held every Sunday, except March 16, 2014, during spring break

The students will be singing on Palm Sunday, April 13th and Mother's Day, May 11th

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 20th. The times and dates will be published at a later time.

May 11th will be the last day of Sunday School

We are trying to make every effort to keep you informed of Sunday School happenings. We would like to use email for future messages and cell phones for our "One Call" to notify you of happenings at the church. We also use the "One Call" to notify our church members of church events that may be called off due to inclement weather. Please send your email addresses and cell phone numbers to the church office at grotonumc@nvc.net if you are not receiving these calls. If you have a telemarketer block on your phone, you will not receive these calls. Please have a friend notify you when there is a call.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Kim Weber or Carna Atherton-Pray or Pastor Matt at the emails noted below.

Thank you for bringing your kids to Sunday School! If you would like to participate as a teacher, substitute teacher or helper please volunteer – we need you!

Kim Weber kimweber59@yahoo.com

Carna Atherton-Pray ccpray@nvc.net

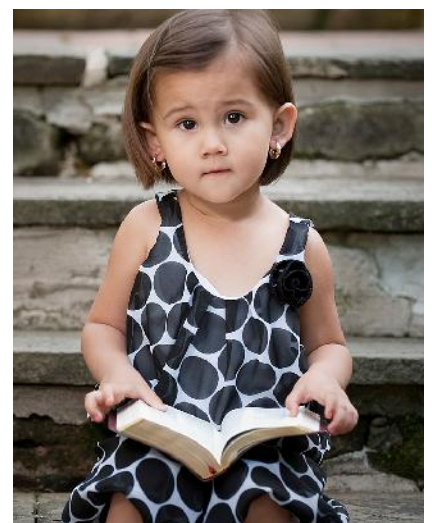
Pastor Matt Richards grotonumcpastor@nvc.net

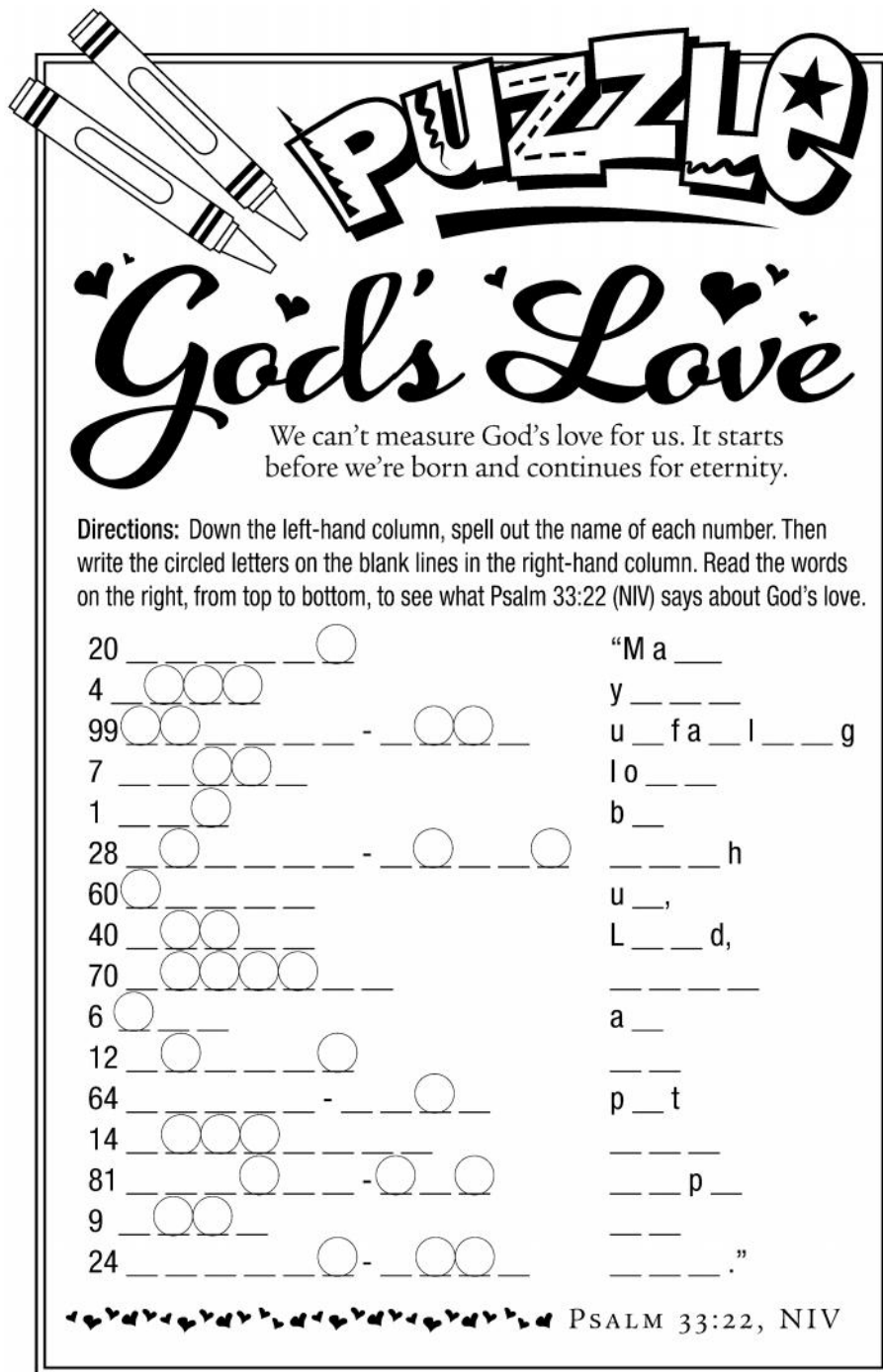


9 "verses" that aren't in the Bible

Several popular sayings can put biblical literacy to the test. For example, the phrases below aren't in Scripture – although some come pretty close:

- "Money is the root of all evil." (According to 1 Timothy 6:10, "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.")
- "Cleanliness is next to godliness." (The closest teaching to this might be in James 4:8.)
- "God helps those who help themselves." (This proverb originated in ancient Greece, not in Scripture.)
- "God moves in mysterious ways." (A verse kind of like this is Isaiah 55:8.)
- "Spare the rod, spoil the child." (British poet Samuel Butler coined this phrase, which could be a paraphrase of Proverbs 13:24.)
- "This, too, shall pass." (This occurs nowhere in the Bible but has been linked, incorrectly, to King Solomon.)
- "Love the sinner, hate the sin." (St. Augustine originally came up with a version of this phrase.)
- "Charity begins at home." (British theologian John Wycliffe is credited with this saying.)
- "God will never give you more than you can bear." (This seems to be a misinterpretation of 1 Corinthians 10:13.)





The ABCs of love

Use this alphabetical list of love-in-action verbs as a reminder of the many ways to reflect Christ's love:

Accepts
Behaves
Comforts
Defends
Empowers
Forgives
Grows
Helps
Invests
Joins
Kneels
Listens
Mentors
Notices
Overlooks
Provides
Quiets
Rejoices
Supports
Tries
Understands
Volunteers
Welcomes
eXpects
Yields
adds Zest to life



Twenty-eight.... with	Sixty-four..... put
One..... be	Twelve..... we
Seven..... love	Six..... as
Ninety-nine..... unfailing	Seventy..... even
Four..... your	Forty..... Lord,
"May	Sixty..... us,
Twenty.....	Eighteen..... our
	Eighty-one..... hope
	Nine..... in
	Twenty-four..... you."

Groton Ad Council - Jan

Jane Johnson met with the Council to explain the new family work committee assignments into 3 funeral committees. The three committees will rotate funeral responsibilities to better spread the duties more uniformly.

With all the projects to do on the Trustee list, fund raisers are needed. A Valentine's Day event was suggested and several volunteer to help, but no chairman was found.

Lenten suppers were set for 6 Wednesdays starting on Ash Wednesday at 5:30pm to 6:15pm. Lenten services will be held from 6:15pm to 7pm. Groton will have Maundy

Thursday Service at 7pm and share in the community Good Friday service at noon in Friday.

The church will continue to pay 75% of the camping registration fees for children and youth wishing to experience the camping experience. The funds will come from annual revenue of the Mamie Johnson Camping Endowment, grants, and donations.

Meeting times for Administrative Council were changed to 7pm for November to April and staying at 8pm for May to October.

Groton Stewardship Report Jan 2014

Average
Wkly Giving
\$1,657

Needed Wkly for
Church Mission
\$2,125

Average Weekly
Attendance Sunday
55

Total Building
Fund
Donations
\$55



Groton Mission Statement

"Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."

Groton March Family Committee

Dwight & Eugenia Strom

Linda & Gary Thurston

Susand Odland

Dale Kramer, Gabrielle

Yvonne Lange

Desiree Morehouse

Cheryl Hanson

Mark & June Thompson

Gayleen & Jon Voss, Lacey

Marlys Rodman

Rose Tewksbury

Laurel & Monte McNickel

Kami & Tom Lipp, Reilly Ell, Kyler Ell

Lance & Kristi Hawkins, Kylie, Kelby

Diann & Brad morehouse

Carna & Cliff Pray, Kevin

Karla Pasteur

Honorary Members

- Doris Zoellner
- Charlotte Lange

March Extra Responsibilities

- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Mar 2 change altar cloths to white for Communion and Transfiguration Sunday
- Mar 5 is Ash Weds - purple altar cloths
- Mar 9 - purple altar cloths
- Potluck 2nd Sunday
- 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to Kay Brandt
- Remind Cliff & Carna Pray to change banners this month



March 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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

- Feb 3 PPR Meeting in Groton 7 pm
- Feb 8 Open House Baby Shower 2-4 pm Amanda & Justin Morehouse
- Feb 9 Groton Missions Committee Mtg 10:15 am
- Feb 15 Open House Bridal Shower 9-11 am Desiree Morehouse
- Feb 19 Conde UMW Mtg - Community Valentine Party at 10 am
- Feb 19 Groton UMW Mtg at 1:30 pm
- Feb 19 Groton Ad Council at 7 pm
- Feb 23 Groton March Family Committee Mtg at 10 am
- Feb 23 Newsletter Items Due
- Feb 25 Groton 10 am Bible Study starts "The Way"
- Mar 2 Groton Memorial Committee Mtg 10 am
- Mar 4 Conde Fat Tuesday Pancake Meal from 5 - 7 pm
- Mar 4 Conde Ad Council
- Mar 5 Conde Ash Wednesday Service at 10:30 am Lenten Study Following
- Mar 5 Groton Lenten Supper 5:30-6:15 with Jan Committee Serving
- Mar 5 Groton Lenten Service 6:15 pm
- Mar 7 World Day of Prayer at Groton UMC
- Mar 9 UMW Sunday



February 2014						
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