

The Connecticut Women
 of the United Church of Christ
 has announced that our very own
GLADYS REYNARD



has been nominated as a
Recognized Woman
 and, along with this year's others recipients,
 will be celebrated at its
79th Annual Meeting
 on **April 28, 2007**
 at Immanuel Congregational Church,
 10 Woodland Street, Hartford
 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Those interested to join this day of festivities and to honor Gladys may contact Pam DiDio, Secretary at the Conference Office to the CT Women of the UCC, at (xxx)xxx-xxxx or by email at xxx@xxxx.xxx.

Plodding Toward Jerusalem ...

Last Sunday, I shared a poem by Ann Weems called *Counting the Cost* which was written about Mary, the sister to Martha and Lazarus, and her anointing of Jesus' feet at her home just six days before Jesus walks into Jerusalem. The poem reads:

*The end begins with a woman who poured perfume upon his feet,
 She poured it lavishly, without counting the cost ...
 The disciples were angry; the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor.
 Where have I heard that tune before?
 Oh, what trouble we have with gifts and giving!
 You want to tell me how much and when and to whom
 and I want to tell you my way of giving is better than yours ...
 What Jesus told the disciples and us is: An extravagance of the heart is a fine and beautiful thing ...
 Why is that this one is so hard for us?*

Mary helps Jesus prepare for his coming death. She extravagantly shares her perfumed ointment without holding anything back. She helps him prepare for his death and burial while also helping him prepare for a new life, an eternal life with the God who is his "Abba", his loving parent. On Easter morning, when Jesus' tomb is discovered empty, Mary already understood that the real extravagance comes from a God whose love is poured out without limitation ... an extravagant God who offers us more than we can ever imagine ... an extravagant God whose love knows no bounds and who continues to do great things for us ...

As we prepare for the excitement of the parade of Palm Sunday with its fanfare and waving branches this Sunday, we also prepare for all the other events of the coming Holy Week. Yes, we all want impatiently to get to the empty tomb of Easter morning. Yet in the events of this upcoming week, we prepare not only for death but also for life beyond death. Join us this week for the Palm Sunday festivity and then for all of the services of Holy Week.

See you there!

Pastor Barbara

FYI

Every month, the church office receives a few copies of *Life-Lines*, the Groton Senior Center Newsletter. The April 2007 issue is now available in the office.



HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 5th, 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 6th, 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, April 7th, No Potluck or Worship Service

EASTER SUNDAY, April 8th
 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service (Memorial Garden)
 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Walk-In Volunteers

KEEPING THE DOORS OPEN

Youth Walk-in Times for the next 3 weeks are made possible by the volunteers listed below.

Please contact Jamie McGee
 at xxx-xxxx or xxxxx@xxxxx.xxx.

March 30	7-9	Peter Springsteel	Joyce Springsteel
	9-11	Tod Schaefer	Pat Schaefer
April 06	7-9	CLOSED—Good Friday	CLOSED—Good Friday
	9-11	CLOSED—Good Friday	CLOSED—Good Friday
April 13	7-9	Ed Purcell	Nancy Dinovelli
	9-11	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed