

Vine Reporter

www.vineucc.org

April 2011

April Events - Mark Your Calendars!



Christ Has Risen!

**Easter Sunday Celebration
Sunday, April 24th • 10:30 am**

Our Easter Sunday service and music will touch your family's hearts and fill you with the hope and joy of Easter. Everyone is invited to dress in formal Easter attire to celebrate *New Life* on Easter Sunday.

Pancake Breakfast • 9:00 - 10:00 am

Breakfast fundraiser served by the Youth Group, prior to Easter worship service.

Children's Choir

Our Sunday School children have been practicing to sing during worship and will showcase their talents on: **Palm Sunday, April 17th** and **Easter Sunday, April 24th**.



Palm Sunday Cantata

Sunday, April 17th

Special Services for Holy Week



Maundy-Thursday Seder Supper and Tenebrae service • April 21st at 6:00 pm

Fellowship begins at 5:45 pm, the Seder Supper at 6:00 pm, and the worship service at 7:00 pm.

Good Friday Prayer Service • April 22nd from 12:00 - 12:30 pm

Prayer service led by Pastor Renae.

Vine's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 23rd • 10:30 am - Noon

Join your family and friends for this fun-filled neighborhood event! At our duck-themed event for ages **5th grade and younger**, children will hunt for eggs, enter a toy rubber ducky into the **Vine Duck River Derby**, and can pet real baby ducks and chicks. *See enclosed yellow flyer for more information.*

Be sure to bring your camera!



You've Got...Purse-onality!!

**Celebrate Women banquet
Friday, April 29th • 6:30 pm**

The theme for the evening's Purse-fect program is "Purses!" You won't want to miss our Purse-uit of a festive evening. Tickets can be purchased from the Board of Women's Ministries Sunday, April 10th through Sunday, April 24th. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 3 to 12 years of age, and free for children two and under.





Each Easter in your lifetime has been different. You learn and grow in wisdom...so the resurrection story takes on layers of meaning. Be open this Easter to a rich blessing from God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Let yourself be raised too. May fresh life burst among you like buds awakening to the Spring. May shells of distrust and negative self image which keep you from loving, be broken away so that new life can emerge. Touch the soft fuzz of a baby chick. Smell the Easter lily. *Be made new.*

See you in Church!

Love and Peace, Pastor Renae

Pancakes + Big Chaco = Renovation

Wait!! That's some yummy but *strange* math! Let us explain . . .

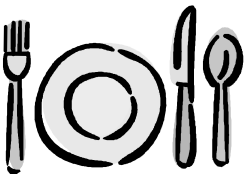
The Sanctuary Renovation Steering Committee has scheduled a fundraiser at **Greenfield's Pancake House and Restaurant, 7900 South 87th Street** (just off Hwy 2), for **Tuesday, April 26th**, from **5:00 - 8:00 pm**. Greenfield's will donate **10%** of that evening's purchases (*if you mention our fundraiser!*) to the church for the project. If you can't make it between 5:00 and 8:00 pm, they will honor the fundraiser during the rest of the day as well, as long as you ask. **You MUST mention the Vine Church fundraiser in order for us to receive the 10% donation!**



It Gets Better . . . We can pay for our food with SCRIP, and Greenfield's SCRIP nets the church 15%!

And Better Yet . . . If you mention you are there for the fundraiser, they offer a complimentary "Big Chaco" for sharing. It's a chocolate chip cookie loaded with ice cream and drizzled with chocolate syrup.

In case you haven't eaten there before, while it calls itself a "pancake house," they have a marvelous assortment of non-pancake choices! And there are no dishes to do!



So, mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 26th**, buy Greenfield's SCRIP, gather up your family, invite your friends and neighbors, have an evening out, and benefit Vine and the Sanctuary Renovation Project! Questions? Ask any member of the Steering Committee: Joan Humphrey, Bruce Baker, Jeff Brown, Shane Cuttlers, Jean Jordan, Jill Kuhel, Paul Svoboda.

Adult Sunday School Book Study

Recently our world has experienced many catastrophic events that are often deemed to be "Acts of God." Beginning **Sunday, April 3rd**, we will be begin an adult discussion group based on the book, "**The Will of God**," by Leslie D. Weatherhead. In his book, Weatherhead inspires us to *look at the everyday events in our lives and helps us to determine God's role in these events.*

This outstanding book allows us to begin to gain an understanding of our loving God and His will for human beings. Though this may sound simple, in reality, we will need to reach deep within ourselves for the complex answers to the painful experiences in our personal lives and the world's events.

All answers are not found here. What is found here is a greater understanding of our God, a God of love rather than wrath and punishment. It offers us a look at a God of grace who resides with us at all times and works within the activities of our lives and the world to overcome the

evils we do to ourselves and all of God's creations.

This book is rather short and we have 12 copies available to be checked out from their location in the chapel. We will be utilizing a leader's discussion guide and everyone is encouraged to join even if you have not had the opportunity to read the book prior to our discussion. *All sessions begin at 9:15 am. Hope to see you there!*

Adult Education Sunday School schedule

April 3: "The Will of God" by Leslie D. Weatherhead

April 10: Prayer discussion led by Rev. Clip Higgins

April 17: "The Will of God"

April 24: **Easter** (*no Adult Sunday School*)

May 1: "The Will of God"

May 8: "The Will of God"

May 15: "The Will of God"

May 22: "The Will of God" (*last day of Sunday School*)

Ministry, Mission and Fellowship



Cookies for Voters - Would you like to help let people in our neighborhood know what a welcoming place Vine Church is? The Board of Evangelism would like to welcome voters to Vine on **Tuesday, April 5th** and again on **Tuesday, May 10th** by offering cookies and displaying information about Vine Church. *You can help by providing cookies. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call Cheryl Svoboda at 423-0307.*

Thank you: Thank you to the following Fellowship Hour servers in **March**. . . **Rose Schaeffer, Nancy Hassler, Norma Klein, and Nancy Klein** on March 6th, **Steve and Pastor Renae** on March 13th, **Judy and Abby Workman** on March 20th, and the **Anderson and Kuenning families** on March 27th. The sign-up sheet for future Sundays is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

People's City Mission - Vine volunteers served the evening meal at the People's City Mission on **Monday, February 28th**. Members of the crew were: Youth Leader Leah Klein, Karlyn, Tawny and Keely Anderson, Cindy Klein, Breana Romero, and Mary Owens. Six Vine volunteers served the evening meal at the Mission on **Monday, March 28th**. Nancy Hassler was a first-time member of the crew which included Cindy Klein, Diane Knox, Betty Roth, Mary Owens, and Rick Williams. The Board of Missions thanks all those who have participated in this once-a-month project during the past 2 1/2 years. *The next opportunity for service will be Monday, April 25th.* Please sign-up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

SCRIP Talk: SPRING has officially arrived! A busy and exciting time, we turn our attention to getting outside and the many projects and activities that come along with the season. Now is a great time to look over the extensive list of gift cards available through Vine SCRIP. These can be used for anything from home and garden projects to wedding and graduation gifts and everything in between. The easiest way to use SCRIP is for your routine purchases at the grocery store and pharmacy. **Remember: Every time you use SCRIP to make your purchase, you are providing additional funds for Vine Church.** Stop by the SCRIP table any Sunday morning, ask questions, take home a SCRIP order form, and consider what a difference you can make by using this fundraising program.



Planning for the Junk Jaunt - is in full swing, and we are in the process of collecting good, used items. These items include: small appliances, furniture capable of being lifted by two persons, tools, lawn and garden equipment, sporting goods, toys, glassware, artwork, linens, craft materials, memorabilia, and antiques. No computer monitors, exercise machines or non-digital TVs please, because the JJ committee has to pay to dispose of them. Also, this year we are asking Vine members to bring their items to the Sunday school room (next to the east side entrance) in the church basement. JJ items cannot be placed in the choir room because that space will be needed to store church property during the renovation. If you need assistance with transportation of your treasures, call George Robie at 402-488-3142.



Fellowship Hall Renewed! Thank you to all who donated time, talent and funds to refresh our Fellowship Hall. The walls and paneling have been painted, the floors stripped and waxed, the wood refinished, and the base boards cleaned. In the very near future, the windows will be cleaned inside and out. The result of this grand project is beautiful! This work to the hall needed to be done, regardless of the fact we will be worshipping in there during the sanctuary renovation. A special thank you to Jean Jordan, Paul Svoboda, Jeff Brown, Chuck & Wendy Fast, Jeanne Scott, Ken & Etta Kokes, Ivan Lichty, DeLoyd Larsen, and the Board of Trustees.

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, and good wishes that I received since my hip surgery. Thank you to Pastor Renae for your visits, prayers, and words of encouragement. It's been a greater struggle than I anticipated, but with God's healing power and the support of so many, I hope to be back in church soon! May God bless you all, Delores Wenz

Thank you for remembering me with *Get Well* cards, prayers, and cards for my 90th birthday. Your thoughtfulness means so much to me. God bless you all! ~ Eleanor Krenk

Vine Youth News

Retreat for Senior high **April 1 - 2 .**

Youth Group meets the **1st and 3rd Sunday nights** of each month at **7:00 pm**. April dates are the **3rd and 17th**.

Easter Egg Hunt on **April 23rd**, the Youth Group will help with this event.

Easter Breakfast, April 24th, the youth will host a pancake breakfast for the congregation. This fundraiser will help some of our youth go to the *Heifer Project Ranch* in Arkansas this summer.

Camp Work Weekend at Kamp Kaleo, **April 29 - 30**.

Senior High Sunday School meets every **Sunday morning** from **9:15 - 10:00 am**.

CONGREGATION NEWS

New Members ♦ Baptisms ♦ Birthdays
Weddings ♦ Memorials ♦ Special Announcements



Please welcome new members:

- Gregg & Stephanie Kuenning

Happy Birthday!

- 1 – Blanche Brooks
- 3 – Lori Ellison
- 5 – Paul Humphrey

- 9 – Cindy Klein
- 11 – Dan Wright
- 12 – Carson Kaufman
- 15 – Bob Klein Jr.
- 15 – Lea Anderson
- 16 – Gale Breed
- 16 – Ellen Hadley
- 17 – Kyle Ellison
- 18 – Steven Robb Jr.



- 18 – Charlie Ebbert
- 21 – Charles Deshon
- 22 – Brad Niimi
- 23 – Jim Owens
- 23 – Brooke Nimetz
- 24 – Clip Higgins
- 24 – Maddie Elbracht
- 26 – Lou Uphoff
- 29 – Geri Nordstrom

Keep in Mind...

Play Pool and Eat Lunch: join in on the fun *after church* on **Sunday, April 3rd**, at Dave Moreland's sports bar, **Sportscasters, 3048 N. 70th** (70th & Adams). Everyone will buy their own lunch and enjoy some pool!

Lenten Bible Study - on the *Book of Judges* at the home of Pastor Renae and Steve, on **Tuesday, April 5th, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**.

The Devil - Fact or Fiction: Symposium at *Doane College* Lincoln Campus on **Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00 pm**. Pastor Renae will be on the panel. You are invited to attend.



PEEPS - If you enjoy the Easter marshmallow treats, you will love the **"Peep Show"** in **York, NE!** All are invited to this fun event on **Saturday, April 16th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm** at the **York Auditorium** on the corner of 6th & Nebraska Avenue. We will tour the Peep creations and other fun activities! If you would like to carpool, please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Postcards to be Mailed: to households near the church, inviting our neighbors to join us for Easter Sunday worship. Thanks to the Board of Evangelism!

Start your Ministry - When you feel called to start something new such as an event, mission, or activity; please talk to Pastor, so Vine can help *make your vision a reality*.

Pastor's Day Off: is always on Thursday. She will be taking off **Monday, April 25th** for an Easter break with her boys.

Confirmation Day - Sunday, May 1st.

At the March 20th Nebraska UCC Conference Association meeting, the guest speaker was Dr. Bleicher, and he spoke about the benefits of hospice. Our very own Pastor Renae encouraged everyone to share their joys and excitement within their respective churches. Vine representatives enthusiastically shared about our sanctuary renovation plans. **It was decided that Vine would host the next Association meeting on Sunday, October 16th.**

From the Vine Foundation

The Vine Foundation Board of Directors, at its March 8, 2011, meeting, voted to fund the \$1,800.00 grant request from the Board of Missions, as the sponsor of George and Diane Robie's mission assignment at Lithuania Christian College International University. The grant request was to help underwrite the costs of transportation, food and travel health insurance for George and Diane as they travel to Klaipeda, Lithuania, where George will teach an intensive undergraduate course entitled "Theories and Practice of Counseling."

The college supports a Language Institute which teaches English as a second language, and Diane will be a tutor for some of the institute's students. They will be in residence on the college campus for the entire month of May. Upon their return, they plan to share with Vine their experiences of conducting international missionary work in a former Soviet Block country.

The Board of Directors also received an updated report that, as of this writing, the Vine Foundation has received \$6,360.00 in gifts in memory of Janice Higgins. The Board is grateful to the family of Janice Higgins for designating that memorial gifts should go to the Vine Foundation, and to all who gave to the Foundation to honor and remember Janice.

Bequests and gifts to any fund within the Vine Foundation will financially support the goals of that fund for years into the future. Should you wish to contribute, you are welcome to designate your gift to one of the five funding areas within the Foundation. Those areas are: mission, program and leadership at Vine; ministry in the community; annual proceeds to Vine's Board of Trustees; Vine's building and grounds; and last, ministry to Vine's youth. **Thank you for your continued support of the Vine Congregational Church UCC Foundation!**