

# Vine Reporter

## October Events - Mark Your Calendars!

### Worldwide Communion Sunday • October 2nd



We have big plans to celebrate *Worldwide Communion Sunday*! You are invited to wear **Ethnic clothing** to celebrate the diversity of Christianity and to show our fellowship with Christians around the globe.

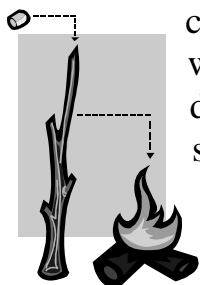
A **Special Communion for Youth**, who participated in Pastor's class on Holy Communion, will take place during worship. The Congregation will partake of Holy Communion and give toward our *Neighbors in Need* special mission.

After worship, we will setup tables and enjoy an **Ethnic Potluck lunch!** Please bring foods that represent different cultures, include a notecard with your name and origin of the dish, and bring your own table service.



### Hayrack Ride and S'mores Friday, October 7th • 7:00 pm

Pastor Renae and Steve invite all of you to their farm for hayrack rides and eating s'mores around a campfire. Tour the farm, pet baby pigs, play with the puppy, snuggle cats, watch the ducks paddle around the pond, climb a tree, sing camp songs, and most of all, have FUN together.



Bring your own cooler of beverages. 'Fixins' for s'mores will be provided.

### The Time is Now

We need to raise \$100,000 by the end of October to pay for our Sanctuary Renovation. Can we do it?



**Yes we can!**

The pressure is on, the time is *now*. Funds are coming in!

**Please help!**

### Harvest Holiday Extravaganza Saturday, October 22nd • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Bring your family and friends for this fun, festive event and shop 'til you drop! Come for breakfast between 9:00 - 11:00 am, only \$2.00; and stay for lunch, served from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, for only \$4.00. There will be a large variety of items for sale, and also a raffle and silent auction. Donations are still needed and very much welcomed! All proceeds benefit the sanctuary renovation. Please see enclosed flyer for details.





**A**utumn is a sacred season of learning the virtue of contentment. As you watch the tree colors change and the harvesting of the fields, take in your own Spiritual Harvest. We live in a society that is ever-restless, seeking happiness through more and more possessions.

This fall, you can get away from all of that and be at peace with what you have. Hold a basket of the harvest of your life and know that it is blessed, that your striving can cease in the abundance of God's grace. Know the contentment that allows the totality of your energies to take pleasure in God's great bounty. Find joy in the abundance of the simple things of life. With the golden glow of peaceful contentment, may we truly appreciate this autumn season.

See you in Church! **Love and Peace, Pastor Renae**

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## Sanctuary Renovation Update

If you haven't been able to see the progress of the sanctuary renovation in person, you can follow the progress on the church website as new pictures are posted on a regular basis. I want to thank everyone for their gifts of time, energy and money to the project. Great progress has been made and it's a joy to see the physical changes to the sanctuary and chapel.

As you know, the renovation has challenged us financially, but as a church family we will meet that challenge and continue to grow together as we pursue God's mission for the church. By the end of October we hope to be in the sanctuary where we can truly say it will be *accessible to all*.

If you've had a hard time hearing the Pastor or enjoying the music, that will also be improved greatly with our new sound system. If you catch the replay of the service at home, that will also be dramatically different with a new camera enhanced with the sound system and digital quality.

To date, we have raised \$221,824 on our way to a project goal of \$365,000. A week ago we began to ask members to consider a gift if they haven't pledged yet, or if they have pledged, to consider increasing their original gift with a goal of trying to raise an additional \$100,000 to apply to the project by the end of October.

I'm pleased to say we had multiple people pledge an additional \$18,800 to help us on our way to meeting the October goal of \$100,000. Please consider a gift or an increased gift. Together we can

get this done! Again thank you for your continued support of Vine Congregational Church and it's missions.

~ Gary Karthausser, Church Moderator

## Sanctuary Renovations Are Really Taking Shape!

Now that most of the infrastructure work is completed, we will really see changes as we come to church each week! The new exterior wall is in place, and one of the air conditioning units was shifted to make more room by the ramp which will be created at the north entry.

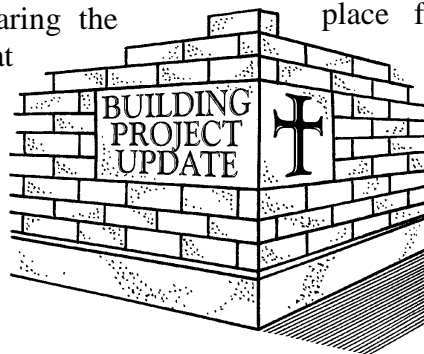
In the sanctuary, the tracks are in place for the sound system wiring, and additional soffits have been built in the chancel area and across the back, above the windows. It won't be long until the floor tile installation will begin, and the trim around the openings in the existing wall will be installed. We are anxious to see the refinished pews back in the space, and excited to see how it all comes together!

If you haven't already seen it, stop by *Hope Chapel* to see what the Trustees have accomplished with new paint, baseboards and carpet.

Many thanks to those whose contributions have made this all possible. Please continue to support the fundraising efforts so that we can bring this major undertaking to a successful conclusion.

~ Joan Humphrey, Chair

*Steering Committee for Sanctuary Renovation*





On **October 2nd**, volunteers from the **Vine Youth Group** will be meeting together after church to participate in "**Safe Quarters**," the annual fundraising walk for the *Friendship Home*. The *Friendship Home* is a shelter in Lincoln that provides safety and other assistance to those leaving domestic abuse situations. We will be given a particular district of Lincoln, in which we will collect change from individuals to help raise money for the *Friendship Home*. If you are interested in being one of the volunteers, please let Leah know! This is a fun and easy way to make a difference in our community.

**October 28th - 30th** is the Nebraska UCC Conference's fall retreat. This year, they have decided to put together a service trip to Joplin, Missouri, the site of the recent catastrophic tornado. This trip will be for 7th - 12th grade students and sponsors. If you or your child is interested in going, please let Leah know! (leah.k.klein@gmail.com). There is a \$40 registration cost that will need to be paid at the time that a youth signs up to confirm their spot on the trip. **College students and young adults are also welcome to participate.**

Some additional upcoming dates for youth events to keep in mind:

- October 2nd:** Youth group meeting, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- October 16th:** Youth and parents meeting, 9:45 - 10:15 am
- October 16th:** Youth group meeting, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- November 11th:** Fall lock-in at Vine Church
- December 4th:** Christmas gift shopping for children at the *Friendship Home*
- December 18th:** Christmas Party

## Faith Explorers Bible Study

Everyone who can, come to the Explorers Bible Study and Discussion group on **Tuesday, October 11th and 25th, 1:00 pm**, at **Vine Church**. The group led by Tom Guenther will look more deeply into some of the lectionary texts for the following Sundays after the group meets.

On **October 11th**, the study texts will be Exodus 33:12-23 and Matthew 22:15-22. The **October 25th** meeting will center around Matthew 23:1-12. The class consists of both an input of information and lively, interesting discussions about the relevance of each text to contemporary life. Participants are free to participate to the degree in which they are comfortable. **All** are warmly welcome.

## Remember to Pray...

Everyone is invited to pray for Pastor Renae during the month of October, which is Pastor Appreciation Month.



*Anytime* is a great time to pray for your Pastor! Pastor Renae appreciates any and all times you remember her in your prayers.

**Did you know?**

**Wyuka Cemetery Tour:** there are some famous people and interesting history inside of Lincoln's Wyuka Cemetery. You are invited to join in the city tour on **Sunday, October 9th at 2:00 pm**.

**Crop Walk:** to stop world hunger is **Sunday, October 9th from 1:30 - 2:30 pm**. Please give a donation and/or sign up to participate in the walk.

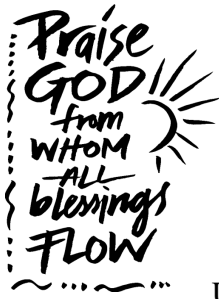
**Fall Festival at Northeast UCC:** support one of our fellow UCC churches by attending their *Fall Festival* on **Sunday, October 9th, from 3:00 - 6:00 pm**. See flyer on the narthex bulletin board for details.

**Tour the South Street Temple:** with Rabbi Craig Lewis on **Saturday, October 22nd, from 12:15 - 1:15 pm**. Everyone is invited to the tour.

**Annual Preliminary Budget and Election of Officers Meeting:** please mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 20th**. This meeting will be held immediately following a short worship service. The "official call" will be in the November newsletter.

**Symposium was a big hit!** Those who attended the "Being Gay in Lincoln, NE 2011" Symposium were blessed by the gay men and women who shared their story and helped us learn how we can help in areas of equal rights and justice.

# Ministry, Mission and Fellowship



**Fellowship Hour Hosts needed for October!** Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or call Cheryl Svoboda at 423-0307 for more information. **Thank you** to September servers **Pastor Renae and Steve, Delores and Herb Wenz, Board of Evangelism,** and Cheryl and Paul Svoboda.

**Heartland Association Meeting** - On **Sunday, October 16th**, Vine will host all of the area UCC churches for the Fall Meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend. Registration is from 2:30-3:00 pm, short worship at 3:00 pm, followed by the guest speaker presenting on the myths of organ transplants. The business meeting begins at 5:00 pm, with dinner at 6:15 pm. Please call the church office if you plan to attend the dinner so that we can prepare for the correct number of guests.

**Bud Vases Needed** - Please call Cheryl Svoboda at 423-0307 if you have any bud vases that you can donate. They are used to welcome new babies to our congregation by placing a red rose bud on the altar. The rose is then delivered to the family.

**Prayer Shawls** - When someone is sick or on a long road to recovery, Pastor will give that person a Prayer Shawl to wrap up in and keep with them so that they can reach for it to wrap up again and again as needed. On Sunday, September 18th, six prayer shawls were dedicated with a prayer that God will infuse love and healing strength into the yarns of the shawls so that those who wrap up in them are embraced in Peace. A special thanks to the following women for making the prayer shawls: Carol Rystrom, Mary Johnson, Darlene Barnett, Diane Robie and Arlene Delisi. You are invited to knit, crochet or sew prayer shawls and give them to Pastor when they are finished. She will then bless them as they come in and deliver the shawls to people as needed.

**Evening Discussion Group** - will be **Monday, October 17th, 7:30 pm**, at the home of Marylyn Brinkhoff, 2302 Bradfield Drive. Judy Keller will lead the lesson.

## Congratulations!



**Congratulations** to Khloe Cuttlers, who received a Children's Bible from the church for her **3rd birthday**.

**Holy Baptism** of Colton Malcom Sievers, son of Colt and Kathy Sievers, on Sunday, September 25th.



## Count Yourself Blessed

**Stewardship Campaign, October 16th - November 6th**

We are excited about the blessings that abound at Vine Church and look forward to what we will do with our offering to glorify God. Please look for your stewardship cards in the mail, pray about your giving and turn in your completed card. *"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."* ~ Luke 6:38

**Postcards from Lithuania** - Please join us for an all-church potluck and mission event on **Tuesday, October 11th at 6:30 pm** in **Vine Church's Fellowship Hall**. *Friendly Fellowship* invites all Vine members and friends to dine together and hear George Robie and Marcelline Hutton's presentation, *"Postcards from Lithuania: The People, the Land, and a University."*

**Marcelline Hutton** is a retired professor of Russian history. She taught at Lithuania Christian College (LCC) International University for a number of years, and met George and Diane this summer while they were teaching and working at LCC. Marcelline lives in Lincoln and is a member of St. Mark's on the Campus Episcopal Church.

**George Robie**, a board-certified chaplain, is a member of Vine and its Board of Missions. He retired from full-time employment in 2006 and now works part-time as a Spiritual Care Coordinator at Horisun Hospice in Lincoln. This past summer, he taught "Theories and Practice of Counseling" at LCC in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Invite your friends, bring a covered dish to share, and hear the unfolding story of service and witness in a former Eastern block country.

## From the Board of Missions

Vine's Board of Missions has set **Sunday, October 2, 2011**, as the date for our 2011 *Neighbors in Need* special offering.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is the UCC's annual, special mission offering to support the ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of the NIN offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) which works with our neighbors in the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, and other tribes and nations in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and Northern Nebraska.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects, addressing such concerns as health care, voting rights, hate crimes, the federal budget, immigration, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Please plan on contributing to Vine's October 2nd Neighbors in Need offering by using the special envelopes provided in this newsletter or at church. Vine's Board of Missions thanks you for your participation in this special offering.

Along with many other "thank you's" to Vine Church for our generous donations this past quarter, we received one from the Eastridge Pantry. The letter included a list of current needed items that would help them fulfill the great needs of people in our community.

**The following items are greatly needed:** diapers and

other baby items, cake mix, cold cereal, evaporated milk, laundry detergent and other laundry items, pancake mix, pasta, powdered milk, salad dressing, toilet paper, toothpaste, and tuna.

Please do not bring empty egg cartons. Monetary donations are also accepted. Donated items can be placed on the shelves below the narthex bulletin board. Missions members will deliver them to the Eastridge Pantry. Thank you!

**From Peace & Justice** - Thanks to all of you who recently filled the recycling containers with aluminum cans. Your recycling efforts netted \$29.15. As we wrote to you in the August 2011 *Vine Reporter*, Vine's Peace & Justice Ministries concluded that the best use of accumulated income from the aluminum can recycling was to use those funds to help support the Vine Sanctuary Renovation Project. Continuing in that effort, we are pleased to donate the income from this recent recycling effort to the Sanctuary Renovation Project.

We especially appreciate the extra effort by those who rinsed and crushed your cans and then placed them in plastic bags. This makes the recycling job much easier. Your on-going efforts to recycle, not only aluminum cans through Vine Church, but all of the materials that you recycle and reuse, is beneficial in another way: it shows your concern for the health of our earth. Please continue recycling other materials in neighborhood recycling centers.

~ Thank you, Bruce Baker for P&J



**What a joyful surprise** to receive the note cards in the mail the other day filled with wonderful memories and greetings from our Vine family. We look upon you as family, and that will never change. Your support through all the "ups and downs" of life with the Taylors over the past 31+ years will be remembered always. Thank you so much for these notes and the beautiful service of send-off on our last Sunday before our move - the music, the blessing, the personal good-byes - priceless! We will return from time to time for visits, and if we're in town on a Sunday, you know where we'll be - our Vine home among our Vine family! With our love, Donna and David Taylor

**Thank you** for keeping my family in your thoughts and prayers following my sister's death. We sincerely appreciate the cards and warmth expressed. ~ Cindy and Clancy Dempsey

## CONGREGATION NEWS

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

### Happy Birthday!

4 – Melissa Delisi  
4 – Julia Kerrigan  
5 – Shirley Beckman  
6 – Rosemary Liesemeyer  
6 – Erin Schuessler  
8 – Matthew Keller  
9 – Kate Ostrander  
10 – Lorene Behrends

12 – Julie Anderson  
13 – Sydney Siegfried  
13 – Tim Brugman  
16 – Taylor Watermeier  
17 – Kathy Sievers  
17 – Wilma Traver  
17 – Keely Anderson  
18 – Dan Foreman  
19 – Shelley Otto



21 – Kate Baker  
23 – Pam Kuenning  
23 – Jason Criger  
26 – Sam Scott  
27 – Jean Jordan  
29 – Ivan Lichty  
31 – Marjorie Kelley  
31 – Janette Robb