

Vine Reporter

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September 2011

September Events - Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday School Kick-off • Sunday, September 11th • 9:15 am



The second Sunday in September marks the kick-off for all Sunday School classes, including adult education and confirmation. New this year is *Vine Coffeehouse*, a young adult class for those college age through those in their 30s.

Beginning at **9:15 am** on **September 11th**, everyone is invited to take part in a fun, interactive slide show featuring this year's Vacation Bible School. *Please see the special newsletter insert from the Board of Christian Education that features information for all the Sunday School classes.*

Worship time changes back to **10:30 am** this morning, and everyone is invited to take part in Holy Communion during worship. This September 11th will mark the 10th year since the 9-11 devastation. Pastor will say a special prayer for the continuation of healing and the hope for our children of the future.

Getting to Know You

September 12th or 14th • 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Pastor invites you to attend an informal gathering so that she can get to know you even better. Please stop by the church for an hour before supper on **Monday, September 12th** or **Wednesday, September 14th** from **5:30 - 6:30 pm** in the youth room. We will sit on sofas and have a relaxed time to visit.

If you would like Pastor to come to your home for a visit, please call the church office and she would be happy to set a date and time with you.



Being Gay in Lincoln 2011

September 25th • 11:30 am

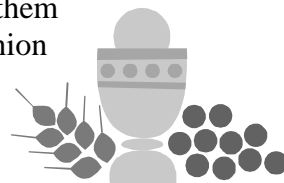
After worship on Sunday, September 25th, you are invited to stay for an educational **symposium of gay women and men**, of all ages, who will each take a few minutes to tell us some of their story, how they have been treated in Lincoln, how our church can be welcoming, how we as individuals can help to be supportive and to teach us some of the justice issues.

As part of the United Church of Christ, we strive to be "Open and Affirming." Please see the UCC website for great information on this topic. At Vine, we value education and want to be up to date on gay issues that affect many of us, our family members and friends.

Communion Class

September 18th • 9:15 - 10:15 am

If your child(ren) are at the age in which you feel they are ready to understand and partake of Holy Communion, Pastor would like you to bring them to a special communion class.



The kids will learn the meaning of Holy Communion, the Bible stories that tell us about the Last Supper and how to respectfully hold the bread and juice before partaking. Each child will get to make a special communion wine glass decorated with their full name.

On World Wide Communion Sunday, each child who completed the class will be invited to take communion using their special wine glass with their parents, grandparents and special family or friends by their side. Please let Pastor know in advance if your child(ren) will be participating so she can have the correct number of wine glasses.



Have you ever heard the saying, “Parking on someone else’s dime?” It is always nice to pull into a parking spot and see that there is some time left on the meter.

It reminds me of the nice bonus that we have had these past 50 years...we enjoyed the sanctuary for many years “on someone else’s dime.” Now, that we are making the sanctuary accessible to all, this nice renovation is going to be on our dime. I hope that each of you will prayerfully consider giving toward the project. Steve and I are supporting the project and I hope that you will too.

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

Pastor - Parish Relations Group Formed

I have formed a Pastor – Parish Relations Group to help me in my ministry here at Vine church. Shari Nierman, Clip Higgins, Carol Rystrom and Bill Leipold have accepted the job. This group of four will meet when there is a problem with a member of the congregation. The same four people are the ones to come to if a member of the congregation has a problem or concern about me that they feel unable to talk to me about personally.

When a parishioner comes to one of them with a concern, they will let me know and then the four of us will set up a time to meet and brainstorm how to heal the situation. I will also call them together when a member of the congregation comes to me with a complaint about me or a request of me that is difficult for me to deal with. I will then call them together to tell the story of what happened and get their advice or input on what could be done to heal the situation. It is most likely that we will not need to meet very often. However, I felt it was beneficial to have such a group formed if needed.

Pastor’s Advisory Group Formed

I have also formed a small Advisory Group to meet with me in the Fall and Spring (and other times if needed) to listen to my ideas, thoughts, and vision for the church. Their job will be to listen, give feedback and let me know what they think would work and not work well for Vine. I always have a lot of ideas, so I will look to them to help me narrow down, eliminate some and select only a few. They will be helpers in looking at a vision so that we can all be pulling in the same direction. I also expect them to provide constructive criticism to help me improve and provide evaluative praise in the areas that they think I am doing well, so that I can continue to grow. ~ Peace and joy, Pastor Renae

Sanctuary Renovation Update

As Pastor Renae remarked on a previous Sunday morning, it’s fascinating to watch the progress in the construction through the windows at the back of the sanctuary. Every time I come to the building, something is different! I hope you are all enjoying the view, too.

The footings and foundation for the ramp and the new entry were delayed by rain, and then by the discovery that a gas line runs through the area, even though Black Hills Energy was sure it didn’t. Fortunately, Clark Contracting was able to manage the situation by making a change in the placement of one of the footings, and now the foundation is in place and the concrete poured.

The stained glass windows on the east side are

away being put into new frames so that they will be ready to be re-installed in the new exterior wall. The existing wall has been opened up into the ramp area, and the beams in the sanctuary are being painted.

Soon the company installing the new audio/visual system will start their work. The carpet and tile for the whole project, including new carpet for Hope Chapel (which the Trustees are handling) has been ordered. Some members of the Renovation Committee inspected the refinishing work on the pews, and reported that they look beautiful.

After months of delay, it is exciting to see the activity and progress – to see the dream become a reality!



~ Joan Humphrey, Chair

Steering Committee for Sanctuary Renovation



LifeLight Christian Music Festival - Youth trip **September 2nd and 3rd** in South Dakota. Be inspired by Christian music and meet other youth. Youth Director Leah Klein will be accompanying Vine's youth to the festival.

September Youth Group - Just a reminder that the Youth Group will meet in **September** on the following **Sundays: 4th and 18th, 7:00 pm**, at the church.

Electronic Offering

Did you know that you can have your offering automatically deducted from your bank account? Please contact your financial institution directly to make the arrangements.

Once this is setup with your bank, we ask that you please pick up a green, laminated **Electronic Giving card** each Sunday to place in the offering plate. You can find the cards by the door just inside Fellowship Hall.

Explorers' Bible Study

Anyone interested in knowing more about the Bible passages that are to be part of the following Sunday worship services is invited to come to the next gathering of the *Explorers' Bible Study Group* set for **Tuesday, September 13th, 1:00 - 2:30 pm** at the church.

Tom Guenther is the facilitator/coordinator of each session, and individual questions and group discussions are given top priority at each session. It's a great way to gain more insight into particular passages from the lectionary. It's also a great way to get to know other congregation members and friends.

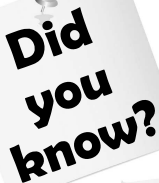
Best of all...it's free. Hope to see you there!

From the Trustees

Our overall church budget remains somewhat of a challenge this year. Despite our very best efforts to keep expenses down, we are currently operating somewhat in the red. Please do your best to make sure you keep your pledge to the church current to help us past this rough spot.

We continue to make headway on the finances for the *Vision for Vine* renovation project, however. Of the projected \$365,768 needed to pay for those improvements, we currently have \$198,623.90 available and are continuing to identify additional sources of revenue to help with the project. Work will soon begin to remodel restrooms near the sanctuary, to complete the brickwork for our new main entrance sign and to update the Hope Chapel as well.

Upcoming dates to add to your calendar include "Stewardship Sunday" on **November 6th** and the church's annual budget planning meeting on **Sunday, November 20th**. The Trustees next meeting is Monday, September 12th.



Elevator Month - take time to ride the elevator in **September**. It's easy and you might even say it's "fun." We would like you to know how to run it in case you are ever in need of it or you are helping a church visitor.

Welcoming Skits - beginning **Sunday, September 18th**, the

youth group will do a short skit during each worship service for seven Sundays. These skits will illustrate how we can learn to be better at welcoming visitors. When you see a visitor, please tell them, "It is so good to see you here!" - or something to that effect. A friendly congregation invites people into the love of Christ.

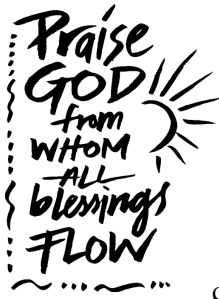
Wyuka Cemetery Historic Tour - by City Historic Preservation Planner **Ed Zimmer**, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 9th at 2:00 pm**. Please meet in front of

Rudge Chapel near the main gate at 3600 "O" Street. No reservations are necessary. In the past, as many as 200 people have attended the tour.

Vine to Host - the *UCC Fall Association Meeting* on **Sunday, October 16th**. Approximately 40 people from area UCC churches are expected to attend. Please mark your calendars and plan to help with greeting, welcoming, and serving dinner. We look forward to showing off the progress on our renovation - wherever we may be on the journey at that time.

New address for David and Donna Taylor:

18991 E. Clear Creek Drive
Parker, CO 80134



Ministry, Mission and Fellowship

Choir practice resumes Wednesday, September 7th at 7:30 pm.

Junk Jaunt September 23rd - 25th - Don't forget! After months of preparation and collecting donations, the Kamp Kaleo Junk Jaunt sale takes place this month, **September 23rd - 25th** in Burwell, NE. Make the trip and shop for treasures! All proceeds benefit our church camp. For more information, contact George Robie at 402-488-3142.

Fall Fellowship Hour Hosts are Needed! We've had wonderful treats this summer, but there are lots of opportunities to serve starting in September. Remember that the juice is provided, and the cup and glass washing is done by other volunteers. Thank you to **August** fellowship hosts **Jill Kuhel, Rose Schaeffer, Nancy Hassler, Norma Klein, Cindy Klein, Judy Workman**, and the **Board of Worship**. If you have any questions about hosting duties, please call **Cheryl Svoboda** at **402-423-0307**.

Keep saving the Best Choice product UPC symbols! They can be turned in for cash for the renovation fund. *We need 1,000 by December to double our money.* Only Best Choice symbols, not Always Save symbols can be used. Place the labels in the container in the Fellowship Hall.

Renovation Project 'Harvest/Holiday Extravaganza' Fundraiser - to the congregation, we invite all members to think of what they can do in support of this event on **Saturday, October 22nd**. Any craft items, baked items, home-made jellies, pickles, etc., have always been great items. Cash donations are welcome and appreciated. We will keep you updated as time goes on. If you have questions about any of the above choices, or other items, please feel free to contact one of the committee persons: Arlene Delisi, 402-474-2646, Mona Beatty, 402-474-4054, Jean Jordan, 402-474-4787, or Lorene Behrends, 402-421-3015. The **Board of Evangelism** will *not* be holding the Husker Pre-game Picnic on October 1st. We are adding our support to the efforts behind the **Extravaganza**. **Thanks for your help in whatever way you can.**

Raffle Tickets - we will be selling raffle tickets and are asking all members to participate in the sale of these tickets. We want this to be the best Extravaganza ever! We will have the tickets available beginning **September 11th**, as well being able to provide information on the available gifts/raffle drawings to the lucky ticket holders. Looking forward to a very successful extravaganza and can only happen with all the members' participation. All your help is very much appreciated.

Calling all 'Bakers' - Ladies, gentlemen, girls and boys, let's get started on thinking about what we are going to bake for the **Extravaganza!** We need lots of baked goods, and you are all great bakers. Please contact Lorene Behrends, 402-421-3015.

People's City Mission - Vine Volunteers served the evening meal at the People's City Mission on Monday, August 22nd. Members of the crew were: Nancy Hassler, Cindy Klein, Diane Knox, Mary Owens, Betty Roth, and Rick Williams. New volunteers are always welcome. The next opportunity for service is **September 26th**.

SCRIP Talk - Many thanks go out to David and Donna Taylor for their commitment to Vine SCRIP for the past 15 years. Dave and Donna are two of the original members of the committee. We are very grateful for their contributions and ceaseless dedication to this program. They are just one example of why this program continues to be so successful. We want to recognize all of our Vine SCRIP patrons who are dedicated to using SCRIP on a regular basis. Thanks to you, our sales have averaged **\$10,000 each month** for the first seven months of 2011. We are a small but mighty group, and we invite everyone to give SCRIP a try. Surely you too can find just one merchant on our extensive list that will be an easy way to contribute to a fundraising program that does not cost you anything other than a little pre-planning. While you are making your plans, consider using Bruegger's Bagels the next time you provide treats for fellowship hour. We have several \$10 gift cards available. **Make plans to stop by our table Sunday in Fellowship Hall!**





Neighbors in Need - Sunday, October 2, 2011

The Vine Board of Missions has chosen **October 2nd** as the Sunday to receive donations at Vine for the annual **Neighbors in Need (NIN)** offering. Neighbors In Need expresses the United Church of Christ's commitment to **ministries of justice and compassion** in the United States and Puerto Rico. This special mission offering will help fulfill this commitment.

One-third of the NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry 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. These ministries address poverty, environmental justice, the Federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, and civil liberties.

Please consider carefully how much you can give, or rather, how much you are willing to give, to help stamp out economic and social injustice. Please place your gift in the envelope provided in the **October newsletter** or the one in the bulletin on October 2nd, and place it in the collection plate.

You Are Invited to . . . *Dinner With a Perfect Stranger*

Vine's UCC Evening Discussion Group will begin their regular meetings with a discussion of David Gregory's book, *Dinner With a Perfect Stranger*. The book is available at the Lincoln Libraries or you may want to purchase it from Barnes and Noble. A discussion guide is available from Carol Rystrom.

The group will meet **Monday, September 19th, 7:30 pm**, at the home of Carol Rystrom. Members and visitors are always welcome to this casual gathering. **Please RSVP to Carol at 402-488-3492.**



Thank you to everyone for all the cards, gifts and good wishes that I received for my 80th birthday. I was overwhelmed by the special messages and many people that came to the Open House. We also want to thank the ladies from the Board of Ministry and Tawny and Keely Anderson who helped with serving of the food and the clean-up. It is a blessing to be part of such a caring congregation. May

God bless you all. ~ Herb Wenz

Thank you to our church family for your prayers and support during our time of sorrow. ~ Frieda Bowes

CONGREGATION NEWS

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

Happy Birthday!

August 12 - Samantha Mussman

1 - Kerry Hopkins

2 - Donna Deshon

2 - Brenly Noerlinger

5 - Stephanie Ress

7 - Morgan Cuttlers

7 - Jack Elbracht

8 - Anica Brown

12 - Maxine Behrends

12 - Chris Nierman

14 - Steve Ress

15 - Donna Taylor

15 - John Delisi II

17 - Rita Nixon

17 - Shari Nierman

19 - Bud Geistlinger

19 - Lanny Goering

20 - Karlyn Anderson

20 - Mike Gerdes



21 - Marilyn Cook

22 - Sally Scott

24 - Alesha Beatty

25 - Marlin Kelley

26 - Karen Hemmerling

27 - Barbi Loschen

28 - Tom Guenther

28 - Lois Evans

28 - Beckee Moreland

29 - Lance Loschen