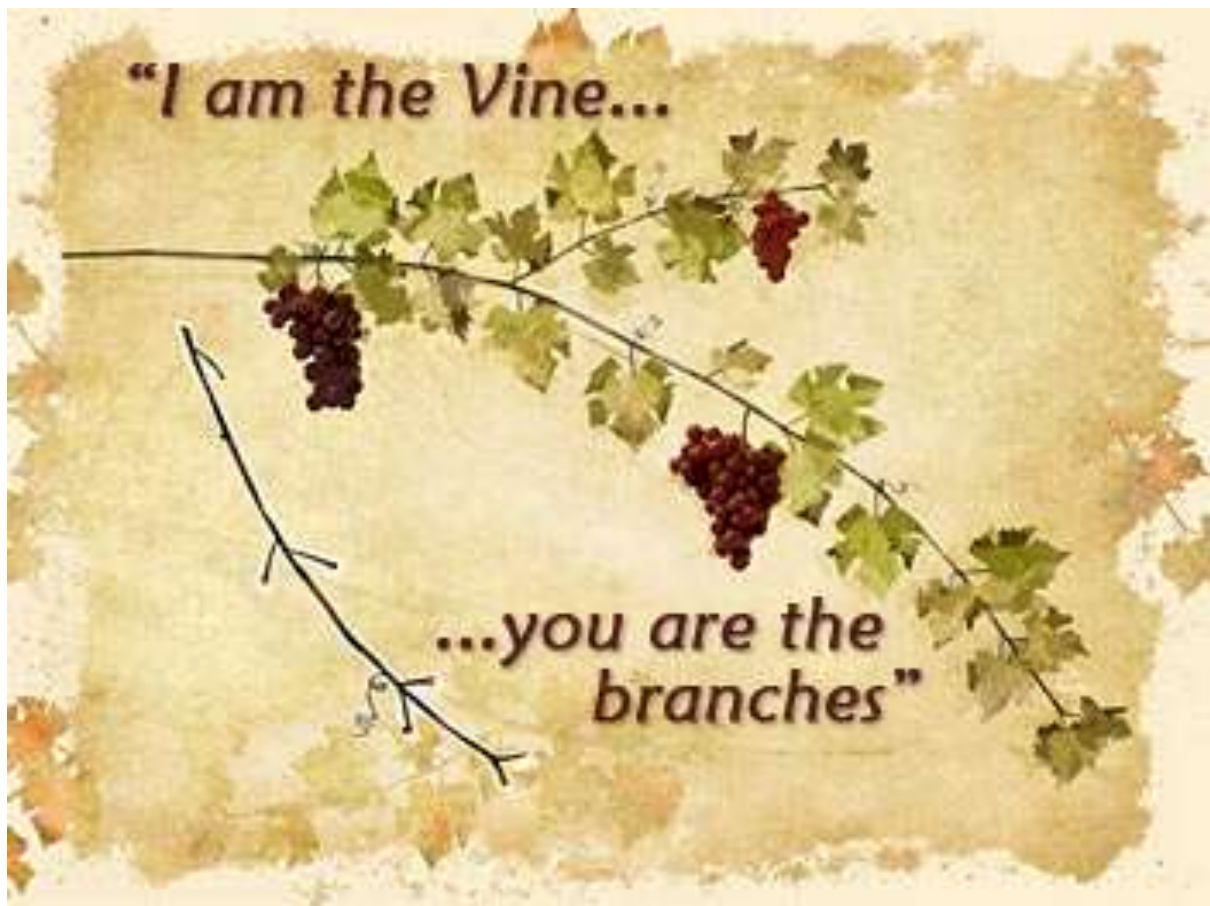
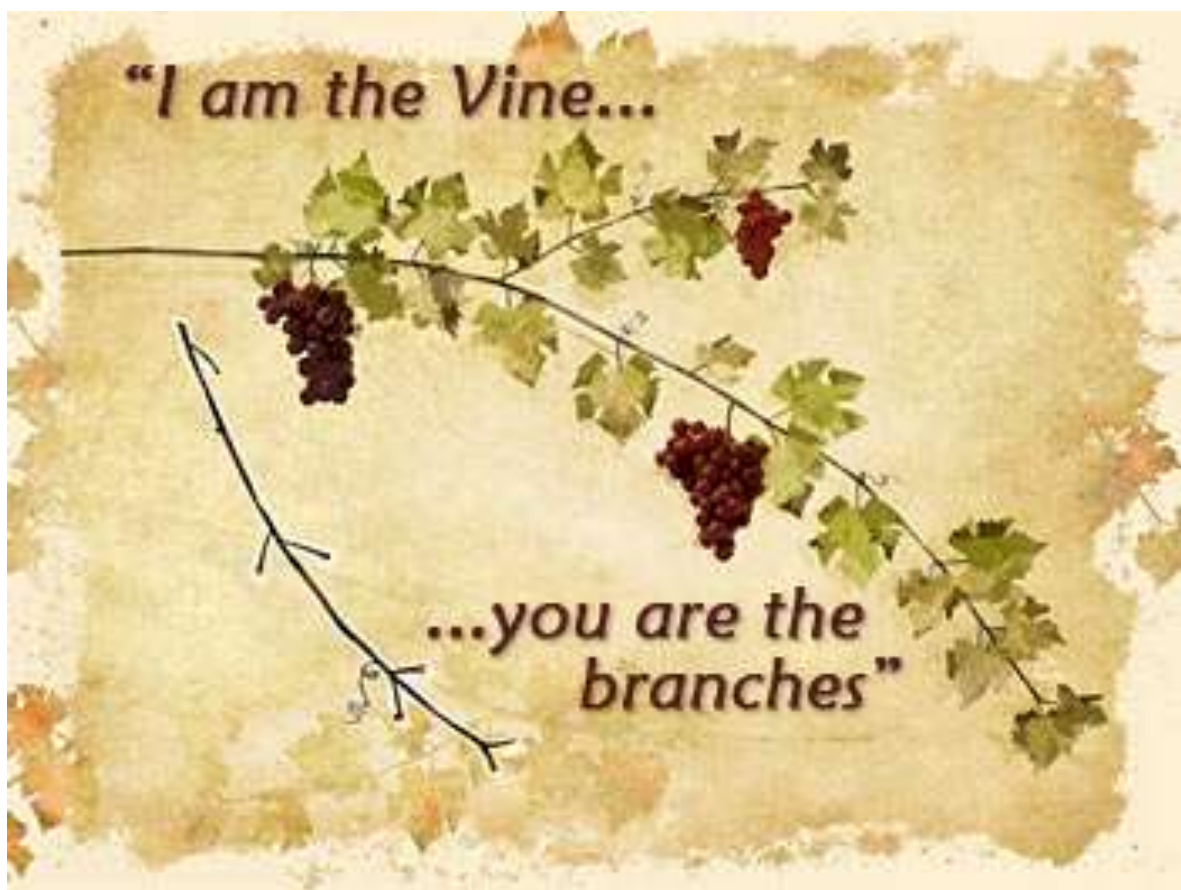


The True Vine



"I am the Vine..."

*...you are the
branches"*



True Vine: First Moment

*(This presentation works best if you have a grafted grape vine in a pot.
If a real vine is not available, use the picture on the front.)*

People wanted to know Jesus was because he did so many amazing things.
Once he told them that he was the Good Shepherd.

Today we hear about something else that he said ... I am the true vine.
What does this tell us? How is the relationship between the vine and the branches?

The relationship between the shepherd and sheep is close,
But the relationship between the vine and branches even closer...

Let's listen to this story... listen for a word: remain. It will be repeated many times.

(Light the candle.)

John 15:1, 4-5

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ...

4 Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.

*5 I am the vine, (Point to the vine part – the main stem.)
you are the branches. (Point to a branch.)*

Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.

So let's think about the words Jesus told us...

Who is Jesus in this story?

(Point to the main stem, once the children have answered correctly.)

Who are we?

(Point to a branch once the children have answered correctly.)

What job does the Father have in this story?

Does anyone have any idea about the Holy Spirit?

If I were to break off a branch and squeeze it, what would happen?

Sap is like the Holy Spirit, keeping us alive. .. can also be called grace, love, life...

When did we receive this life into our hearts? *(Baptism)*

you hear that word **remain**

We heard it so many times... what do you think it might mean?

Did

We also know that a vine bears fruit...

The fruit grows on a healthy, a strong vine;

If it's sick, this doesn't happen.

The vine cannot produce fruit if the sap isn't flowing through all the branches...

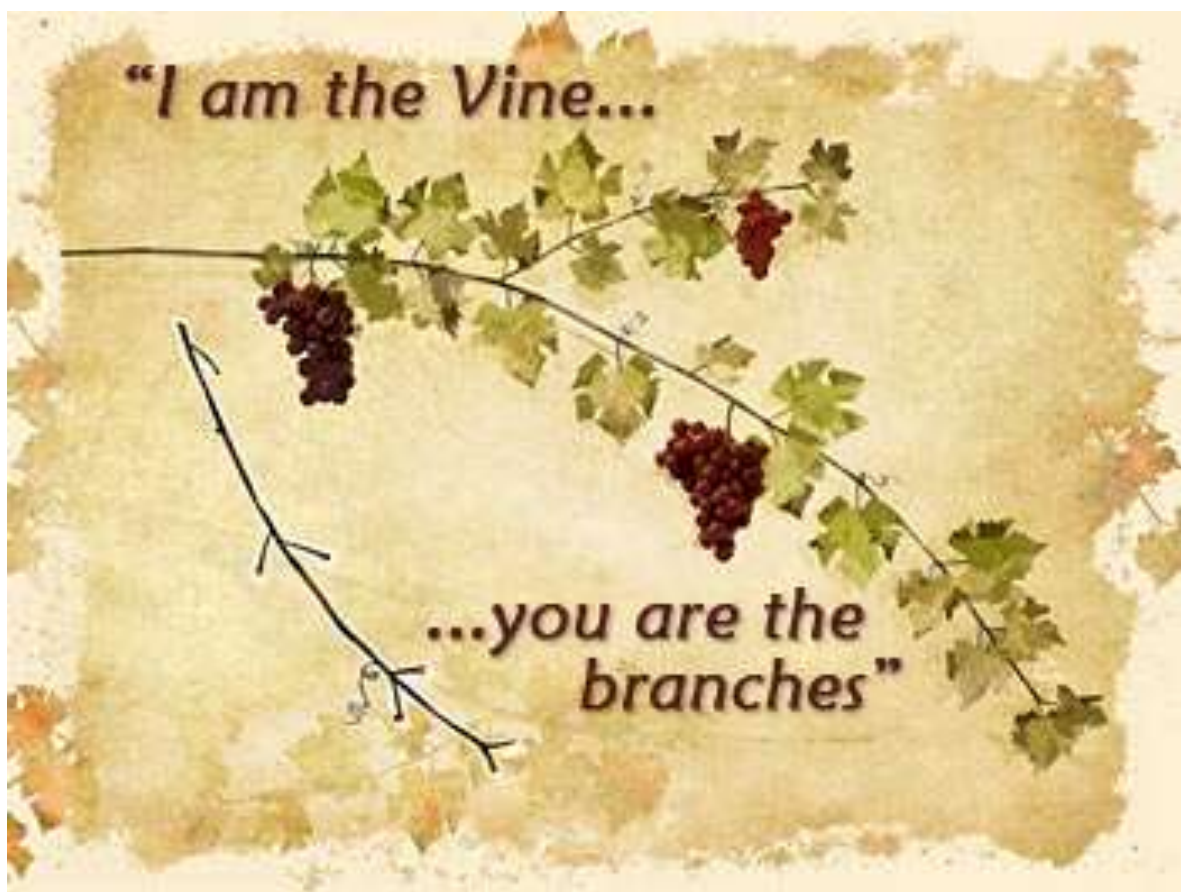
If we are the branches, do you think the fruit we grow is grapes... what kind of fruit do we grow...

All of these things make the vine grow richer... If we remain in him, we will bear much fruit.... What kinds of things can we do that help us to remain?

If the story says it so many times ... to remain.... It must be very important.

"I am the Vine..."

*...you are the
branches"*



True Vine: Second Moment

Review briefly the first presentation...

We talked about the vine and the branches; the sap and the vinedresser
We talked about remaining and bearing fruit.

Let's listen again to this story. John 15:1, 4-5 *(Light the candle.)*

*1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ...
4 Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.*

*5 I am the vine, (Point to the vine part – the main stem.)
you are the branches. (Point to a branch.)
Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.*

Let's think some more about this story.

Jesus said he is the vine and we are the branches...

Who would be the branches of the vine?

Do you know someone who would be a branch ...

(Everyone who has been baptised, everyone who has died...)

You remember how we talked about the sap that goes to all the branches of the vine...

The sap is not getting through to some of the branches... *(Point to a dead one)*

I wonder what the blocks would be stopping the sap getting through to the branches... Who is responsible for these blockages.

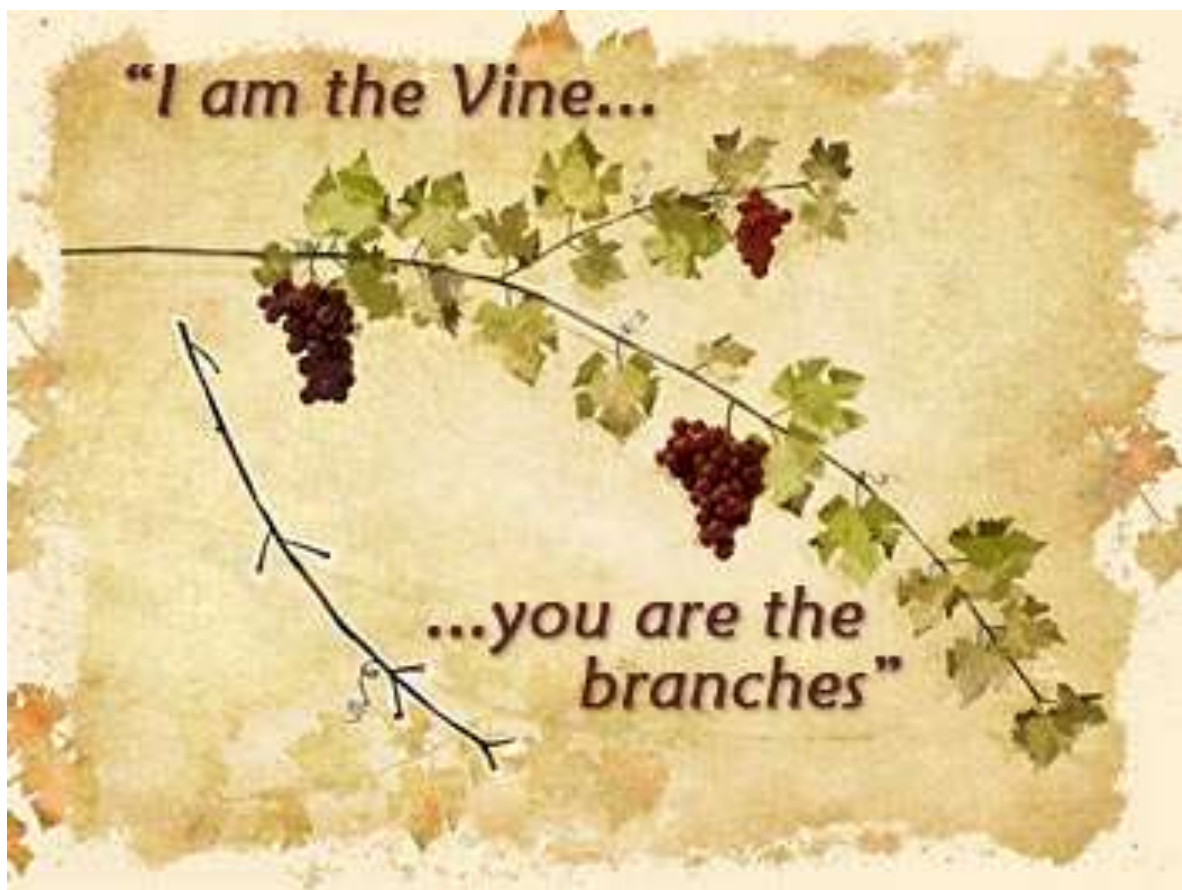
There is a special sacrament that we celebrate that will help bring more sap into the vine.

The celebration that we have to move the blocks is called Reconciliation

We can ask God to move the blockages to make the vine beautiful again.

What kind of things we might have been done to make the vine richer... or poor?

"I am the Vine..."



*...you are the
branches"*

