

March 13, 2006

A Newsletter
for Trinity's
Equipping
Ministry

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Equipping Times

Spotlight on Equipping Churches—Calvary Presbyterian Church

Spotlight on Equipping Churches: This space will feature other churches from around the country that have successfully applied the principles of equipping ministry to their life in Christ. Some of these churches will be like Trinity, others will be very different, but we can learn from their experiences as we continue to develop our emphasis on equipping.

Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco is a PC(U.S.A.) congregation of over a thousand members that is a fellow member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. They began their equipping journey by hiring a member as a half time Director of Equipping Ministry in 1999. Calvary has thoughtfully constructed their equipping systems over the past seven years into lay-lead teams that provide a web of support to all members of and visitors to the Church.

Calvary has a Welcome Team that provides a warm, informative introduction, a New Member Team that takes interested people through the process of joining, a Discovery Team that works with members to discern their gifts and call, a Connections Team that matches people with ministry and mission opportunities, and a Follow-up Team that assures the matches made are good ones. Under the coordination of their Director, Jim Dees, Calvary is continuing to expand and refine their equipping ministry, with new teams in the works, and old ones constantly looking to improve.



As a result of equipping, Calvary experienced a vast increase in both internal and external ministry and mission. In 1999, 20% of members were actively engaged in ministry, now 44% of the growing congregation is involved. In addition, the number of active ministries has more than doubled, with many new ministries being added

within the walls of the Church, such as assembling and preparing mailings, fellowship events, and charitable collections, as well as out in the community, such as staffing food pantries, building Habitat houses, and expanding Calvary's homeless ministry.

Jim Dees is excited about what Trinity is undertaking, and has already been providing valuable resources to the Equipping Ministry Team. We expect Calvary to be an wonderful aid to our Church as we move forward.

—David Nelson

For more information on Calvary go to <http://www.calvarypresbyterian.org>

Ephesians 4:11-13

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

The Equipping Circle

One of the great features of an equipping ministry is that it is built on the conviction that we all have gifts to share with each other. Trinity member Damayanthi Niles, a Professor at Eden Theological Seminary, equips men and women for Christian ministry. Currently, Trinity member Tina Newberry is helping to equip Damayanthi as she takes her ordination exams.



Moving Ahead with Equipping

After seven sermons, five adult education classes, five meals at members' homes, a leadership retreat, a staff retreat, and a presentation at our Annual Meeting, our initial introduction to equipping has now come to a conclusion. These past two months have been significant time of learning, asking questions, expressing hopes, and catching a glimpse of God's future for Trinity. I want to thank the members of the Equipping Ministry Team (Ann Fischer, Do Kirk, David Nelson, Rob Peglar, Tim Rand, Chris Schmidt, and Holly Tasker) for all of their hard work. Also, a huge thanks to the Trinity members who hosted the dinners and brunches and all of you who attended and shared your thoughts.

As we move forward with our equipping emphasis, we want to keep you up to date on our progress: We are currently in the process of refining job descriptions and choosing search committees for both the equipping position and the Christian Education position. Once the search committees have been identified, we will let you know who is on them. They will also keep you up to date on their progress.

We will continue to work on our equipping emphasis as we search for new staff members. The Equipping Ministry Team will be meeting with some of the commissions at Trinity to partner with them in pilot equipping projects. We do not want to wait until a staff person is here before realizing the blessings and benefits of being an equipping church. As those efforts get off the ground, we will share stories of what is happening so all of us can see how equipping enhances the ministries that are so important at Trinity.

These are exciting times at Trinity. I ask for your prayers and your ongoing participation in our dialogue about equipping as we move ahead together.

—Rev. Dan Anderson-Little

Equipped to Lead—Leading through Equipping: Diane O'Brien

The purpose of equipping is to help every member and friend of Trinity to discover their God-given spiritual gifts, to discern their calling, and to find meaningful ways to live their ministry. From time to time we will feature Trinity members who are being equipped for their ministry and who are equipping others.

Last year, under the leadership of Diane O'Brien, eight adults from Trinity went to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico to serve, to grow in faith, and to share their faith. This year, building on the success of last year's trip, Trinity is sending another group of adults to Louisiana to help with Hurricane Katrina clean up. While these mission trips have been team efforts, Diane's leadership has been instrumental in helping this ministry become a reality.

Equipped for Ministry

Diane has been equipped for this ministry in a variety of ways. She has been a regular worshiper in church for many decades. In the early 1990's, Diane took seminary classes in Texas and she is currently taking classes in theology and Bible at Eden Seminary. In 2003, she enrolled in the DNA class at Trinity which gave her new insights to her spiritual gifts and her spiritual passions. She worked with Janet Chester as she prepared to be an advisor on the 2003 Youth Mission Trip. When she returned from that mis-

sion trip, Diane worked with the Pastor to refine her vision for an adult mission trip. They met numerous times to see how her dream for an adult mission trip would fit



into Trinity's overall mission and where there were resources to make her vision a reality. With the success of the first trip, Diane discerned that God was calling her to expand on this experience. In anticipation of a new effort, Diane and the Pastor discussed her leadership strengths, the areas where she needs to grow as a leader, and how she could improve her leadership.

Equipping Others

As this ministry has grown, Diane has started to equip others to take on leadership for this year's mission trip. She spent time listening to others' passions for mission in the world. She formed a team that could dream and plan for new opportunities. Diane uses her gift of hospitality to create an atmosphere where everyone is included and can contribute to the effort. This year, more people are taking leadership roles with the mission trip. Diane now dreams of a time when each year, Trinity sends multiple mission trip groups locally and globally to be transformed and to transform the world. Because she has been equipped and is equipping others, that dream is becoming a reality.

If you would like to know more about Trinity's ministry, check out our website at www.trinitycity.org