

MEMORIES FROM JELMER & DIANE GROENEWOLD



Jelmer & Diane Groenewold moved to Rock Valley with 3 children and left with 4! Jelmer and Diane served at Trinity from May 1991 to July 2001.

This picture is from 1995.

We rejoice with you and thank the Lord with you for 50 + 1 years of experiencing the Lord's faithfulness and goodness. May you continue to glorify our God and Savior another 50 + years.

We have many fond memories of Trinity CRC and Rock Valley. Our kids had many of their formative years here—Benjamin, his high school and college years; Alyssa, elementary and high school; Paul, elementary; and Nathan, through third grade. Now they are grown up! You have come to know Benjamin and Tricia with their children, Miriam and Peregrine. Alyssa has worked as an obstetrics nurse for twelve years; she is married, since last May, to Samuel Setterlund; they live in Tacoma. After ten years working on coronary care and then trauma units, Paul has begun work as a flight nurse—part of a team that flies critical cases to major hospitals. He, his wife Kristen, and their 16 month old son, Wesley Jelmer, reside in Edmonds, WA. As of last year, Nathan has been ordained as a CRC pastor with the role of mission leader in a ministry he was able to launch in Detroit. He and his wife, Katie, live in Ann Arbor, MI.

When Diane and I think of Trinity CRC we think of grace, service, and Bible study. At every level we found our Trinity congregation to be infused with grace, whether welcoming gladly all who attended worship, encouraging those who were suffering, praying for one another (and your pastor and family), and carrying out the various ministries with which you were involved inside and outside of our church. Along with grace came loving and selfless service, both locally in supporting various institutions and ministries and serving and building connections in Mississippi. Finally, through a number of God-given catalysts, men's, women's, young adult, and other Bible studies flourished. Diane has fond memories of leading Bible study and being part of MOPS.

Two of the greatest gifts you gave us were your encouragement of our children and your encouragement of my further studies. Diane and I truly feel that the positive atmosphere and encouragement you provided for our four children set them on the path to becoming faithful and enthusiastic servants of Jesus Christ. I am also deeply grateful for your willingness to support and encourage my Doctoral study. It not only helped me be a more effective leader and pastor at Trinity, but has been invaluable as we faced the challenges and opportunities of ministry here in Sunnyside.

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians continues to be our desire and prayer for you “that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 5:17-19).

We love you dearly,
Pastor Jelmer and Diane