



DID YOU KNOW?

After Pastor Groenewold left in the summer of 2001, we waited 3 years for a pastor? God then blessed us with TWO pastors in the summer of 2004! Pastor Mark Beernink was ordained on June 27, 2004, and Pastor Al Kuiper arrived two months later.

Here's what they each wrote in response to some questions asked to them.

PASTOR MARK & BRENDA BEERNINK

WHAT LED YOU TO COME TO TRINITY?

I had just graduated from seminary and Stan Visser contacted me to see if I'd be interested in talking with him and Warren Valentine about serving at Trinity. The position intrigued me along with the opportunity to pastor a church close to where I grew up.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE YOU LEFT US?

I moved to Rochester Minnesota upon accepting the position of lead pastor at Church of the Savior, now called Rochester Community Church. Five years later, I accepted a position with Eagle Brook Church. I now serve as the Pastor of Campus Operations at our Rochester campus.

FAMILY UPDATES

Brenda continues to work from home for Wells Fargo.

Ashley lives in Brandon, SD with her 4 children. She currently works at 212 Boiling Point along with providing foster care.

Logan lives in Overland Park, KS and works for Honeywell.

MEMORIES

- The Purpose Drive Life campaign– I believe it was 2004.
- The people who helped launch and lead Financial Peace University. Many lives and financial situations were transformed including mine.
- The Thanksgiving service of 2006.
- Walking with families and individuals through weddings and funerals was priceless.
- The friendships established with staff.
- The kindness Trinity extended to me and my family.
- My conversations with Art Kooima were meaningful and memorable.
- Doug Kooima, in well worn insulated coveralls, visiting with Darlene VanHolland shortly after John's death. I've always thought Jesus showed up that day in farm clothes.
- The Christ-centered testimony of Bryce Dryfhout. Profound!

PASTOR AL & JAN KUIPER

WHEN AND HOW LONG WERE YOU WITH US IN TRINITY?

We served Trinity from September 2004 until we retired in September of 2010.

WHERE HAD YOU SERVED PREVIOUSLY?

I was ordained and installed as the pastor of Terra Ceia CRC in North Carolina in September of 1971. We also served the churches of Immanuel CRC in Salt Lake City; the Cedar Falls CRC in Iowa; Hope CRC in Hull, IA; Crossroads CRC in Des Moines, IA; and Trinity CRC in Rock Valley!

WHO WERE YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS WHEN YOU ARRIVED AT TRINITY?

We were empty nesters when we arrived at Trinity, since our three children were all married. Our son, Bruce, and his family lived in Minneapolis; our daughter, Gwen and her family lived in Sutherland; and daughter, Sheri and her family lived in Des Moines.

WHAT SPECIAL MEMORIES/STORIES CAN YOU SHARE FROM YOUR TIME HERE?

Our ministry at Trinity began at the time a team of ministry planners had already scheduled the beginning of an amazing 40 Day vision focus using the materials of the "Purpose Driven Life." It was also a blessing to serve in team ministry together with Mark Beernink. I deeply appreciated his helpful thoughts and kind encouragement. We thoroughly enjoyed the noon lunches we often hosted for widows and widowers in our home, and we were blessed in listening to their stories of God's faithful provident graces that continued to surround them. Finally, we will never forget the support we received from everyone when our grandson lost his life. We remember especially the help and the support we received in making plans for the funeral service at a distant location (the logistics, the details, the music, and everything else) was truly a blessing in a very difficult time for us. Even so, the grief I experienced in that time was profound, and in some ways adversely affected my passion for ministry. So we thank all of you for the love and prayers we received during our ministry at Trinity.

WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER YOUR TIME AT TRINITY?

After retiring from ministry in 2010, I have served 7 churches as an interim pastor, including some months at the Terra Ceia Church in North Carolina, where we began ministry more than 40 years earlier. We now live in Orange City, where I serve in the pastoral care ministry at Calvary CRC.

FAMILY UPDATE

Our son Bruce, teaches at Dorcht; our daughter Gwen, is an IT specialist at Peoples Bank in Rock Valley; our daughter Sheri, serves as the school nurse at the Des Moines Christian School. We have been blessed with 7 grandchildren, and we were blessed with the marriages of two of our grandsons.