

Ryan Rippee Update: June 2023

- Family

- Son Gavin (24 or 25) has been married to Crisa for 2 years. No grandchildren yet. They live nearby and attend Trinity Church.
- Daughter Delaney (22) is finishing up a great year living and working in Paris as a nanny. She expects to come back home in the Fall.
- Son Liam (20) is in the Marine reserves, will be starting work at a local refinery as an operator, and is moving back home.
- Son Caedmon graduated from High School this past Spring.
- Daughter Ainsley finished 8th grade this past Spring.
- Wife Jennafer will be finishing up her English degree (Bachelors) in December of this year at Cal Baptist College.
- Ryan is doing well with 3 jobs. Having great people to work with allows Ryan to delegate enough of the work so he can manage without being overwhelmed. Ryan says the rhythms of bi-vocational ministry are good right now.
- Everyone is doing well.

- Church

- Jason and Christin Hunt are fitting in well, both Jason working with Ryan (Ryan says Jason is a huge blessing and takes a lot of work off of Ryan's plate) and as a family connecting with the congregation. Jason was approved by SBC missions organization last month as a church planter so when he finishes Cornerstone in another year and a half (expects to graduate in 2025), he will be ready to branch off in a new church plant. Right now, he is getting valuable experience with Ryan. When Ryan preaches, Justin leads music, and vice versa.
- Jason and another man (Marcos) have been meeting for elder preparation/training since February. Ryan expects to install the two men as elders in September/October.
- Attendance has plateaued at about 50 people (adults and children). However, the number of people who are members has grown. The first membership meeting began with 17 and the church now has 33 members.
- Church is still meeting at 4pm. However, there are plans taking shape to possibly move to a larger church in a great Benicia location in a couple months. They would still meet at 4pm, but there could be the possibility to buy that church's property at some point in the future and then be able to meet on Sunday mornings. That church has an older, dwindling congregation. That pastor is bi-vocational also, as well as older. He seemed to Ryan to be receptive to the purchase idea at some unspecified future date. He suggested that if Trinity church were to sign a long-term rental agreement with them, they could be willing to give Trinity church first right of refusal if and when the church is closed and put up for sale. However, no rental agreement has been signed yet as of June 16, 2023.
- Trinity church started with a number of people who had lots of ministry leadership experience. They are doing well at leading various ministries allowing Ryan to delegate responsibility and not carry every ministry leadership himself.
 - Ryan's father is currently the only deacon, and he was head deacon at CBC for about 40 years.
 - There are two more men in the pipeline to become deacons and serve with Ryan's dad.
 - Jason has started a youth ministry with help from Marcos.
 - The children's ministry is going well with an excellent leadership team.
 - The women's ministry is great. It has a council of leaders, including Jennafer.
 - Ryan is leading the men's ministry.
 - The people that God has put in the church for ministry leadership have been a great blessing.
 - Christin Hunt is leading a ministry they call "Lasagna Love" where weekly, ladies take lasagnas to single mom's in the community who need food.
 - Robin Viera is heading up a team of about 6 people who each week minister to seniors in the community, working through the Benicia senior center by taking food to the seniors or helping out at

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the senior center. This is building the relationships there with the seniors and the center, hoping to see future fruitfulness.

- The church has the start of a presence in Benicia's Thursday evening Farmers Market. Soon, the church will probably formally set up a Trinity Church table from which to hand out materials about the church.
- Ryan has been encouraging the congregation to take initiative in informal hospitality within their circle of influence (friends/neighbors). Anecdotally, Ryan is seeing this happen, although as an informal activity, there are no metrics to quantify the participation. This is a great encouragement to Ryan as people do this with gospel intentionality.
- Ryan is currently preaching from Ephesians. Jason is preaching a series from 10 of the Psalms. Ryan and Jason previously shared preaching a series on I John.
- The biggest prayer request now is the church move. I don't think this is public knowledge yet, but Ryan had a conversation two weeks ago with the pastor of Heritage Presbyterian church (<https://www.hpcbenicia.org/>) on East 2nd St in downtown Benicia about renting their facility for worship services at 4pm on Sundays. It is a larger facility than their current church facility. The church has a declining attendance, an older congregation (the current pastor is the youngest member of the congregation at 68), and belongs to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The prayer request now is about moving over there in a couple months, not burning any bridges with disagreements over theology, and building a relationship between churches that might result in Trinity Church being able to acquire a good facility in a good location at some point in the future. The SBC has some funding mechanisms available to assist new churches with purchasing property/facilities at low interest rates.
- Finances
 - 4 supporting churches dropped support after 1 year as expected. They had only committed to one year's support.
 - A possible \$30,000 /year grant that Ryan thought he would get, fell through.
 - No new monthly support from churches.
 - There is a small increase from SBC that has been added.
 - Ryan estimates that he needs to find about \$2,000 / month more support. Their savings account has dropped some. There is no immediate crisis, but if income doesn't grow in the next few months, they will have to figure out some changes.