

## Rippee Update 2025 July Notes from an interview with Ryan:

- Family

- Everyone is doing well. Everyone is local and attending Trinity Benicia except Liam whose temporarily deployed to Okinawa in the Marine reserves. The Lord is so good to the Rippee family. It is a wonderful season.
- The Rippee family hosted Paula, an exchange student from Spain, this past school year. Her twin sister was hosted at the same time by Ryan's brother. The two girls just recently returned to Spain at the end of the school year.
- Gavin and Crise - Their son, Wesley, had his first birthday in June (Ryan and Jennafer's first grandchild).
- Liam – In the Marine reserves and deployed to Okinawa, expected home to Benicia in October. He came to faith in November 2024 and was baptized Thanksgiving weekend. He is doing really well.
- Delaney – is back from France and is local, attending Trinity.
- Caedmon – is pursuing a career as a fireman. He is an EMT and is starting with AMR Concord on August 1. He starts paramedic school in the fall. He's looking to be an EMT for about a year, then a paramedic for a year or two, and then get hired on with a fire department.
- Ainsley – Just finished her sophomore year in high school and got her driver's license. She attended a week of summer camp in mid-July. She is having a good year.
- Jennafer – Fully recovered from her illness last year and doing well now.
- Ryan – Is grateful and feels blessed by what God is doing at Trinity, and happy that his family is doing well.
- Rippee finances are fine because Ryan is working three jobs – Trinity Benicia Church, Cornerstone Bible College and Seminary, and part-time for an engineering firm.
- Ryan has 3 book deals arranged. Baker Books wants Ryan to write a book on God, the Father (Rediscovering His Heart For Us) by fall so it can be published for wide distribution next year. Also, McMillan Press in London wants two academic volumes on God, the Father. One will be a historical theology and the other will be constructive theology of the Father, which is an advancement on Ryan's PhD dissertation. Baker expects significant sales for the first book. The latter two will not get the same volume of sales because they are targeted at a much smaller audience of academics. If these books do as well as the publishers expect, Ryan hopes to be able to step out of the engineering job.

- Ministry – Cornerstone

- Cornerstone is growing (75 students enrolled across the Bible college and the seminary, including the Spanish classes – the largest it has ever been). Ray Estenoz is teaching the second year of the Spanish classes. He had about 12 students complete the first year. Ryan would like the entire Cornerstone Bible College curriculum to be available in Spanish over the next 5 years (That will require additional Spanish professors because it means 8 classes per quarter). Cornerstone is now pursuing accreditation and anticipates that it will be complete in 2 years. Funds (\$140,000) for this effort have been raised, praise the Lord.

- Ministry – Trinity Benicia Church

- Amel Dominguez, formerly with Ray Palompo's church plant in Oahu, returned to the Bay Area and was hired part time as a pastor at Trinity Benicia. He has been also working in insurance sales, but just recently was able to replace the insurance job with a better one in computers (IT), a field he has worked in for many years. He is also a candidate for the position of Director of Missions in the local Southern Baptist Association to which Trinity belongs. If he is hired to that position, it would start about the end of this year. He is fitting in well at Trinity Benicia and is a great help to Ryan. The Dominguez family lives in Benicia about 1 block away from Ryan's house. Amel and Ryan grew up together in Vallejo.
- Jason Hunt, the former Trinity co-pastor/intern and Cornerstone student was called as senior pastor at Grace Baptist Eureka on May 1. He graduated from Cornerstone in June. There had been no traction at building a core group for a Calistoga church plant after 7 months and it seemed that the Lord was closing that door. His salary with Trinity Benicia was becoming difficult to sustain after the church also hired Amel. The Eureka church is a familiar place for the family. It is the church where Jason's wife, Christin, grew up and they already know a number of people there, including Christin's sister's family.

- Trinity has 3 elders now – Ryan, Amel, and Marcos Gutierrez. There are two more potential elders in the pipeline. Trinity has 2 deacons now – Chris Rippee (Ryan’s father who was head deacon at Community Bible Church in Vallejo for many years) and Jack Judd (Gordon and Kelly’s son), and there are two more potential deacons in the pipeline. The Lord is blessing Trinity Church, especially in the area of leadership. In three years, the Lord has given them a plurality of elders and deacons.
- Trinity average attendance is about 90 (including kids), and has 42 members, up from 35 last year. Three more members are scheduled to be added in August. There have been 5 baptisms (including Liam’s) in the last 6 months.
- Youth ministry has been sort of start/stop. It is hard to get the critical mass necessary for momentum. For the past 6 months, there has been no regular weekly youth activity, just the occasional special activity. There are 8 Trinity high school and junior high kids attending summer camp with CBC this July so there is a seed of a youth ministry being nurtured.
- The women’s ministry has Thursday morning and a Thursday evening meeting. Most of the women in the church are engaged in one or the other of those ministries.
- Men’s ministry has a monthly breakfast and about a third of the men come to that. In addition, there are a few other sporadic activities for men.
- The church has two home groups meeting since last fall. For the first two years, Ryan had one church midweek meeting where he taught on the distinctives of Trinity Benicia. This was a leadership training series. Having now concluded that series, the midweek ministry transitioned to the two home group meetings. Those are going well. Beginning in January 2026, Ryan would like to reprise that leadership training series on Trinity Benicia distinctives for new people.
- Marcos hosts a young professionals group (18–28-year-olds) on a semi-regular basis.
- Ryan would like to start a midweek children’s ministry next year (fall of 2026). No other church in town is doing this. The kickoff would be a summer VBS in 2026. Ryan expects this kind of ministry to meet a huge need in the community.
- The new facility (Heritage Presbyterian Church) has been working well. Trinity meets at 1:00 pm on Sundays. Heritage Church’s seating capacity is about 90, so it is full during the first half of the service until kids are dismissed to Sunday School.
- Finances – Early in 2025, Trinity was supporting Jason in the Calistoga church plant effort and Amel as part-time staff, putting a strain on church finances. Ryan is very grateful for the financial assistance that GBC was able to provide during that time. Now that Jason is full-time in Eureka, the church bank account is recovering and has some reserves. With current giving and expenses, they anticipate having a more comfortable reserve by year end.
- When Amel came on staff some of his extended family members started attending Trinity. Some of those were unsaved but recently came to faith and were baptized. They are now bringing some of their unchurched friends. There has been other outreach fruit as well, but the largest impact has been that the community recognizes the name of the church and is aware of its location. There are visitors and unsaved people in the church every week.
- The city of Benicia is expected to lose about 40% of its tax revenue when Valero closes next year, so that will be hard on the whole town. Valero employs about 500 people plus there are a couple thousand more people who work in the business park at Valero who will all be directly affected. In addition, all the other businesses and people in Benicia will be affected indirectly.
- Trinity is so grateful for GBC’s prayers and financial support.
- Prayer Requests:
  - Praise the Lord for what He is doing among people at Trinity. He deserves all the glory. Ryan has seen more people come to faith in these three years of ministry at Trinity than he saw in probably the previous ten years. Ryan is so grateful for the work God is doing in the lives of people – discipleship is happening spontaneously. People are getting together and encouraging one another. This is the second building that the congregation is outgrowing.
  - For Trinity’s children’s ministry to start Fall 2026. Young families are a demographic missing in all the churches in the area.
  - For the new potential leaders going through the discipleship training beginning next January, that God would prepare them through the training and protect them and their families.

- For people in the congregation who have health issues.
- For several unsaved people who attend Trinity regularly, that God would grant them faith.
- For Trinity leaders (Elders Ryan, Marcos, and Amel; Deacons Chris and Jack) that God would protect them and give them wisdom to lead.
- For the opportunity to buy the Heritage Presbyterian Church property.
- For the people of Benicia and the financial disruption coming when Valero closes next year.