

Community at the Table

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. (Acts 2:42, CEB)

Tonight, we will be holding our final Community Night gathering of the school year. As you may know, Community Nights have been running for the last 24 weeks (four 6-week sessions), not including holidays. Each week's gathering has included an excellent catered meal and time of fellowship around the table, followed by a variety of classes designed for all ages - adults to children. It has been a time of growth in discipleship and community for those who have participated.

I want to celebrate the fact that our congregation decided to take some risk in a new direction. That's a sign of a healthy church! I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed in some way to make Community Nights happen. Rhonda Johnston spearheaded the effort to try something new in our congregation which would promote a deeper sense of discipleship. Others, such as Deb Packard, have faithfully served in our kitchen, providing excellent service as we've enjoyed food and fellowship. Thanks goes to everyone who has taught a class, led our children and youth, setup and tore down tables/chairs, and much more. It has truly been a community effort!

To be honest, I'm not exactly sure what the future of Community Nights will look like as we move into the next year. We have some evaluating to do, as a significant amount of grant funding used to support Community Night runs out and we consider how to best use our time. I have the clear sense that God is desiring us to take the energy that has started here and throw it in a new direction where we will be truly out in the community connecting with even more people. I plan to share more about a fresh expression of the Church, known as "Dinner Church" when we gather on Maundy Thursday (March 29) at 6:30pm for Dinner, Worship and Communion. I hope to see you then!

Meanwhile, this Sunday, we will examine yet another incidence of Jesus sharing a meal around the table. We will go with Jesus into Zacchaeus' home. We will also celebrate Palm Sunday, as we enter into the holiest week of the Christian year. I'll see you Sunday morning in worship!

Lenten Blessings,

Pastor David Rittgers