

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRINITY

When John and Meg Ideker heard that their good friend Rev. Elyn MacInnis was moving from Beijing to Shanghai, they suggested that Elyn, and her husband Pastor Peter, might want to lead a church planting project, similar to the Good Shepherd church which Elyn and Peter had been instrumental in founding in Beijing in 1993. Concordia couple, Steve and Mary Nurre, were also



First gathering in 2008

committed from the start, as Mary was a long time church organist, who, like the Ideker's was longing for traditional liturgy. And so the genesis of Trinity began and the first service was held in the Ideker home on Sunday, April 27, 2008 with Pastor Elyn preaching, Mary playing the piano and a congregation of 17 people, 2 dogs and a cat. Pastor Timothy showed up the second week and was asked to preach on occasion in the early years. In the first 6 months Trinity's membership grew from 17 to 29 to 60+ people meeting at the Ideker home. In the first year, we celebrated a wedding engagement, the first annual "Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant", we performed a baptism and we shared wonderful Fellowship Coffee Hours around the kitchen island in the Ideker home. We even shared a Thanksgiving Harvest Turkey Potluck Dinner and a BBQ End of School Celebration with burgers and hotdogs!

For the first year, we met only once or twice a month. We met at the Ideker home from April 2008 – June 2009. We then moved to the beautiful clubhouse at Vizcaya, where we continued to meet 2-3 times per month from August 2009-June 2011. Those of us that attended worship services at Vizcaya will remember the beauty of the raised platform stage, which had 6 slender windows with a beautiful view of outdoor greenery. This made quite a gorgeous and memorable altar.

When Vizcaya wanted to double the rent in June of 2011, the board decided to search for another meeting space. For four months, while searching for a new location, we met two times per month in the Ideker and Nurre homes from August-November 2011 until we came to an agreement with AGIF, who graciously agreed to add Trinity Congregation to their registration with the Shanghai Religious Affair Bureau. Beginning in



Vizcaya Congregation

November of 2011, we moved our congregation to our current home – the Chapel of Hong En Church, where we began to worship 38-40 weeks/year. We have worshiped comfortably here ever since. We have always worked to have worship in the morning. Our times have varied from 10am in the early years, to 12noon when we moved to AGIF in 2011, and finally our current meeting time of 11am.



Children of first congregation at Ideker's

Renting the Hong En Chapel means that we must set up our worship area every Sunday, and from 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. the chapel is a beehive of activity, hanging banners, set up the Communion Table, the altar, getting 100 hymnals out, setting up a Friendship Table, making coffee and so on. How is all this possible? Because Trinity has a strong history of volunteerism. We pitch in and do what needs to be done.

Today, we worship the Lord on Sunday, disperse into the community during the week, and devote a considerable chunk of our annual budget to support the needy. We look forward to a fruitful ministry in the years ahead, all glory to God!

—Meg Ideker