Trinity visits Women @ the Well, prison Ministry

Staff Directory

Calendar

Contact

Rejoice

Events on December 2, 2012

Worship Service
Starts: 8:30 am
Ends: December 2, 2012 - 8:30 am
More details...

Worship
Starts: 8:30 am
Ends: December 2, 2012 - 9:30 am
Location: Sanctuary
More details...

Sunday School
Starts: 9:30 am
Ends: December 2, 2012 - 10:30 am

http://trinitywaverly.org/trinity-visit-to-women-the-well-prison-ministry/
Trinity visits Women @ the Well, prison Ministry

Posted on December 4, 2012 by pdwise—No Comments ↓

On Thursday, November 8th, a small group from Trinity had the unique experience of attending worship services at Women at the Well. This church is unique in that it is located within prison walls at the women’s correctional facility in Mitchellville, IA. They are not unlike most other congregations. They are in ministry on the inside sharing in bible study groups, choir, prayer teams and of course weekly worship services which are held every Thursday evening from 7:00 – 8:30pm. This church is a mission’s congregation and each month the mission leaders designate a special focus for the offering which goes to support communities and families on the outside in need.

We went there has part of our new covenant with this church. By this new covenant we as a body of Christ must share in our prayers, presence, gifts, service & our witness. While it didn’t even occur to me not to go I have to admit that I was a little nervous; even fearful. After all we were walking into a prison and I suppose the fear of the unknown is what I felt in the pit of my stomach that day leading up to our trip. I knew I was going as a call from God but what do I say, what do I do, how do I act?

When we arrived, there were many check points and doors to go through before getting inside the church. Then the most amazing thing happened! The greeter (a prisoner) was
holding the door open for us as we walked in. She was smiling so big and was so warm that I could see Jesus in her face. From that moment on I felt this “energy” within and around me.

As services began those of us from Trinity sat on both sides of the chapel; weaved among the prisoners but not just prisoners; faithful followers of Jesus Christ. As the Call to Worship began I was instantly uplifted by the faithfulness these women have. They listened with such intenseness and sang in praise to the Lord so loudly and full of life that you’d think their lungs would burst. I found myself singing louder and louder as the whole chapel was enveloped with the “energy.” Energy from God that brought us together as neighbors to worship him who created us as loving beings to care for one another as we care for ourselves. When it came time to share in Holy Communion (they share in this every week) we were invited and allowed to shake hands and offer words of encouragement, peace and love with one another. The “energy” once again covered us like the warmth of your favorite comfy blanket on a cold winter night.

As services came to a close, we were escorted back to the prayer library where we had been before service began. Here we were greeted once again with an outpouring of thanks for our time and travels to worship with them as well as coffee and cookies. How amazing is our God that he sent us to worship and share in his ever-present grace, love, kindness, compassion and generosity? These women due to life’s circumstances and maybe a bad decision has cost them their freedom as we know it and yet the freedom that God can only bring us is ever-present in them.

This was the most humbling, uplifting and spiritual experience of my life. In the days since I haven’t been able to stop thinking about those women nor my own spiritual journey and have often found myself trying to describe exactly how this experience has impacted me. All I know for sure is something that one of the women had written in the binding of her bible........God is Good!!

Mechille Kluiter – 11/12/12
December 2012 Newsletter
Nashville recording artist, Brian Hanson in Concert Thursday!

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