



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDMOND

FIRST LOOK

JULY 2021

FEATURE ARTICLE:
Core Practice #7:
CREATE & SEND LEADERS

Intern-al Changes

Abbey Wetzel shares about her journey from camper to FPCE intern
(pictured below at 2018 Camp Generate: Paige Ridings, Abbey Wetzel, Alyssa Dees,
Katie Schneider, and Kalli Launhardt)

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT:
NEW LIFE WEEKEND

**JULY
ANNOUNCEMENTS**



VISION MOMENT

Create & Send Leaders

by: Abbey Wetzel, FPCE Communications Intern

We all know what that “camp high” feels like. You spend a week away from your parents, surrounded by all of your friends, and the Holy Spirit moves in such a different way. Lives are changed, students are saved, and coming back from the camp has a different feeling than going into it did.

June 28th through July 2nd, FPCE students and leaders will be taking a trip to Orange Beach, Alabama where we KNOW that Jesus will be moving in the hearts of our students. It is so exciting to think of just how far I have come in my walk with the Lord since my own Camp Generate experience with FPCE|Students in 2018.

On my high school trip to South Padre Island, Texas, I had just finished my sophomore year, and I had only been coming to FPCE with my friend, Paige Ridings, who is now basically my built-in sister; for several months. When I learned about the trip to South Padre, I was in for going to the beach and hanging out with my friends; but I didn't really know that this was a trip that would change my life forever. I grew up going to church and I knew who God was, but my relationship with Him was surface level. The entire week was different than anything I had ever experienced. I felt true joy and fulfillment that I knew was the Holy Spirit moving within me. Suddenly I didn't want to be shy about my faith anymore. I wanted others to experience God's free gift because He wrecked me that week. Needless to say, I finally understood that His amazing

7CORE | PRACTICES

SHARE | CARE | READ | PRAY | INVEST | SERVE | SEND

love for me was given just as I am, and I decided that I wanted to live my life fully devoted to Jesus. And I knew that meant giving up certain things, such as relationships or my own plans, but I was in for whatever He wanted from me. From that decision, Jesus has completely changed my life. He has given Me the opportunity of becoming a Communications Intern here on Staff. I get the blessing of getting to work with Tyler Boren and Blair Merkle, and I don't think I've ever met two more humble, kind, fun, and selfless people who model Christ's love so well.

This church has such a passion for raising up leaders, and I am so grateful to get to reap the benefits of those efforts! Since I began my internship in January of 2021, the Lord has made it clear that my call is into ministry and I've changed my major at UCO from Nutrition to Interpersonal Communications so I can pursue ministry and continue to learn the media side of sharing the Gospel and making disciples. Coming to FPCE, Jesus has shown me that I have a creative side I didn't even know about.

It is incredible to me that the church - as a whole - can now literally reach anywhere in the world. Our local church in Edmond, Oklahoma broadcasts WORLDWIDE each Sunday! That is a really big deal!

We are called to spread

the Good News, and with technology and the right intentions, that is easier than it has ever been. I love getting to highlight all the ways that FPCE lives out the Gospel within our church family. We feature those activities on our social media accounts like Facebook and Instagram. “Pictures speak a thousand words,” and it's fun to get to tell all the ways that Jesus is alive and working in our midst at FPCE by sharing photos and making videos for our Sunday morning worship and our online presence.

I also love sharing my passion for Jesus with students, so I volunteer as a small group leader in FPCE Student Ministries. When I go to Camp Generate with them in Or



Abbey Wetzel & Paige Ridings sing with the Worship Band

ange Beach, I will be working for the Communications Department while also leading a small group of middle school girls. I consider it a true honor to be used by the Lord to connect with these girls in the same way that some of my leaders (who I now consider my friends!) like Amy Reid and Alyssa Dees connected with me when I was in the youth program. Jesus has shown me that my calling is ultimately to be discipled and make disciples.

When our love for Jesus guides our lives, we are constantly called to adventure! Getting out of our

comfort zones to volunteer in a leadership position only makes us stronger in our own faith. Taking on the challenges of learning new technology only opens doors for spreading God's love in new and innovative ways. I am blessed to be part of this community of faith. One of the most beautiful things Jesus has given me is to get to walk alongside my faith journey with my best friend Paige, as she serves as a student ministry intern here on staff. We both were met by God's grace and we have both fallen in love with Him and have been able to share that in our friendship.

I cannot imagine a greater friend that pushes me to Christ every single day. I pray that God will use my life and experiences to His glory!

Please pray for our students and leaders that are going to Orange Beach. We have a group of 71 people, and we are anticipating many seeds of faith to be planted on this trip! Even throughout the summer, please remember these students in your prayers. New Life is waiting for them, and they are the future of FPCE! Thank you for all of your support of me and of the interns here on staff. ■



For The Long Term: FPCE ENDOWMENT FUND

Contributions to the church endowment are welcome at any time in any amount. A special anniversary, birth of a child, remembering a friend or loved one, honoring the work of a retiring employee or volunteer are among the ways to recognize a person or event and help the church at the same time. The money is invested and its earnings made available to the church each year thereafter as an enduring tribute.



FPCE KIDS & STUDENTS

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR
GAMES & GAB NIGHT

ON JULY 7TH
IN THE FPCE
BACKYARD @ 7 PM

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS



FPCE | THE BLOC

THE BLOC - College Age & Young Adults

It has been an awesome summer already for Emerging Generations here at First Pres! We have had a lot of fun on Sunday mornings with our series called "Now What? Adulthood!" and our Wednesday small group and Thursday community nights have been amazing! It's not too late to join us and plug in though... if you are a young adult or you know a young adult who would like to plug in to our Emerging Generations ministry here at FPCE, we want to help make that happen! Contact Brett at bhardy@fpcedmond.org or join us at one of our upcoming events.



EVERY SUNDAY AT 10AM
IN JUNE & JULY FOR KIDS & STUDENTS

FIRST, BY THE NUMBERS

- We had around 200 kids participate in VBS, along with 80 volunteers!
- Hundreds of items of food were collected to donate to the Cesar Chavez Elementary Food Pantry
- We have 56 students and 14 volunteers traveling to Camp Generate in Orange Beach, AL
- Each student will receive a hand-written note of encouragement each night from an FPCE church member (along with a snack!), which equals 280 notes that have been written! Thank you!



SHARE: FPCE TESTIMONIES - The first of our 7 Core Practices is Share Who You Are. When we share our stories, we are cultivating relationships with those around us and spreading the Gospel. Enjoy our new video series - a summer project of our Communications Intern, Abbey Wetzel - online and on our app throughout the month of July. New episodes come out on our app and website every Friday. Enjoy!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

New Life Weekend

Our Vision is "New Life through Jesus, for Edmond and the World," and we are excited to announce our fall kick-off event called, "FPCE New Life Weekend!" We have dynamic speakers, amazing music and worship opportunities for you to share and process, and lots of food and fellowship!

New Life Weekend will kick off on Friday night, August 20th beginning at 5:30pm with a party in the circle drive complete with free food, games, and music. We will move inside at 7:00 PM to hear via livestream from Rosaria Butterfield—the author of [The Gospel Comes with a House Key](#)—Christianity Today's 2019 Book of the Year for discipleship.

We'll resume at 8:30am Saturday and run until 3:00pm on Saturday afternoon, August 21st with exciting speakers, breakout groups, and more food and fellowship!

Wes Lane - Founder and Chief Visionary Officer of "SALLT" (Salt and Light Leadership Training, Inc.) and the former District Attorney for Oklahoma County - will lead us in our second session. Rob Clay of The Gate Church in Oklahoma City will be leading us in worship throughout the weekend. And our own Lead Pastor, Eric Laverentz, will be leading our third session on training up leaders within First Pres. Register today!



Rosaria Butterfield (PhD, Ohio State University) is an author, speaker, pastor's wife, homeschool mom, and former professor of English and women's studies at Syracuse University. She is the author of [The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert](#); [Openness Unhindered](#); and [The Gospel Comes with a House Key](#).



Wes Lane - In 2008, Wes shared a vision for a city transformational organization with seven other Oklahoma City leaders. Together they founded what would become known as "SALLT" (Salt and Light Leadership Training, Inc.). He led this organization until 2018 and now serves as its Founder and Chief Visionary Officer.



Rob Clay is an ordained minister and has served as a worship pastor for 30 years. He is an Amazon best selling author of his book, [Behind the Mask of a...Worship Leader](#). He founded Road 2 Love Foundation on January 1, 2021.



Rev. Eric Laverentz is a husband and father and the Lead Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Edmond. He is the author of [Driven](#) and [Is Caesar Our Savior?](#) He will be teaching on training up leaders within our church using the model of discipleship.