



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDMOND

FIRST LOOK

NOVEMBER 2021



FEATURE ARTICLE:
Core Practice #6:
SERVE COMMUNITY

Whiz Kids

Nancy Brown has been a volunteer
with Whiz Kids since 2004

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT:
ENDOWMENT FUND

NOVEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISION MOMENT

Serve Community: Become a Whiz Kids Mentor

by: Ken Rees

Whiz Kids is a one-on-one literacy tutoring and faith-based mentoring ministry serving kids from underperforming elementary schools in the OKC area. First Pres members have been serving as Whiz Kids tutors since the ministry was founded in the late 1990's. Before the pandemic, ten FPCE-church members met each Tuesday from 5:15 to 6:30 pm at St. John Missionary Baptist Church, just 20 minutes from Edmond, to mentor kids from the nearby Millwood Elementary School. They joined other tutors from Edmond First Christian and St. John's in a great witness showing how believers can reach across racial and cultural boundaries to encourage academic success and spiritual awakening. Each session begins with a meal, proceeds to tutoring and ends in a faith lesson and prayer. The children are delivered by bus from the school and picked up by their parents, so tutors can focus on mentoring in St. John's well-equipped hall.

7CORE | PRACTICES

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

Nancy Brown has been a Whiz Kids tutor since 2004. Her husband Bob joined her a couple of years later. They both agree, this has been the most fun, important, and rewarding ministry in which they have ever been involved.



Bob Brown volunteers with Whiz Kids weekly

Serving Whiz Kids addresses our church's Core Practices. In addition to Serve community mentors Share who they are, grow to Care for one another, Read scripture and Pray during the faith lesson. They make large Investments in people in need and help Create tomorrow's leaders.

Our church is encouraging many new tutors to join in growing this ministry as schools are fully open second semester. This is an opportunity to facilitate transformation for a child on the margins of society by committing to weekly mentoring for the rest of the school year. It is also a unique opportunity to join

with other believers beyond Edmond and experience the church united in mission to some of "the least". All adult members are urged to consider this need, and older teens have found their lives changed by serving as tutors.

To learn more about Whiz Kids visit the information table in the Great Hall after the November 21 worship services. There you can sign up for tutor training scheduled for later in the year, or contact Nancy Brown at Nancy.j.brown@cox.net, 405-833-5070. ■



November Menus:

- 11/3 Meatloaf and potato casserole
- 11/10 Chicken tortilla soup and cornbread
- 11/17 Turkey or ham and cheese sliders

Wednesday Night Gathering

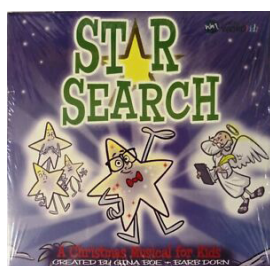
The Gathering Meal will be served from **5:15-5:45pm** in the Great Hall. The cost is \$6/person, maximum of \$24/family. *Please call the church at 340-3602 by noon on Monday to reserve your spot.* Pizza will be available in the Filling Station of the Student area for \$1/slice. Classes for all ages run from 6-7:30pm following the meal. Kids Ministry will meet in the FPCE Kids Room (Rm 1237), and Student Ministry will meet in the Yinger Youth Center. Worship Choir rehearsal happens in the Worship Arts Center, and Adult classes meeting are as follows: "A Journey of Restoration" taught by Amy Reid in Rm 2106, "The Pastor's Bible Study: The Book of Judges" taught by Rev. Todd Cooper in Rm 2108, "Simple Methods to Get More out of Bible Studies" taught by Crystal McGee DePue in Rm 2109. Our final meeting for the semester will be Wednesday, November 17.

NIGHT TO UNITE



FRIDAY, NOV. 5 | 6PM

Join us on **November 5th** for "Night to Unite!" We are thrilled to host a very special guest speaker, Dr. Clarence Hill, Jr. Dr. Hill is the founder and lead visionary for the Stronger Together Movement. He is the Senior Pastor of Antioch Community Bible Church in Norman, Oklahoma. He is also the creator of the Dream Clock - a solution for racial and political division. This event includes a meal that starts at 6pm in the Great Hall, and Worship starts at 6:30pm. There will be a small fee of \$5/person or \$10/family and childcare is optional on the registration available at fpcedmond.org/events.



Star Search Kids Musical

On **Sunday, November 28 at 4pm**, our Kids Ministry and Worship Arts Ministry will present their Kids Christmas musical titled Star Search. The kids have been practicing during their Sunday School

hour most of the fall, and they are ready to share the joy of Christmas with our congregation and beyond! So invite your friends and neighbors and kick-off the Christmas season with this very special performance by our FPCE Kids.



**COLLECTION DATE:
NOVEMBER 14**

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is back! Please bring your packed boxes to the Great Hall. There will be a table set up to collect

the boxes. The last Sunday to turn in your shoebox is **November 14**. If you need help packing a box please go to www.samaritanspurse.org. Thank you for giving!

UPENDO GALA



The annual Make a Dream Come True Upendo Gala is slated for **Saturday, November 6th at 5:30 pm**.

This special event will be at the Hilton Garden Inn in Edmond (Covell and I-35), and tickets can be

purchased on our website (<https://www.upendokids.org/>). Upendo Kids was founded in 2007 to radically change the lives of orphans and vulnerable children in Central Kenya. This ambitious goal can only be achieved through provision of shelter, clothing, food, medical, and an education within a caring and loving environment. We hope you'll join us for an evening of fun while supporting this very worthy cause!

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

This year's Stewardship theme is "Blessed to be a Blessing." This theme can mean many things. In stewardship it may mean the favor of God that brings us blessing by seeking and trusting the Lord in all that we do. This extends to our use of time, talents, and wealth we enjoy from Him. When we are blessed, it is our responsibility to be a blessing. Three years ago, our church made the decision to move away from firm dollar pledges in our campaign. We, instead, ask you and your family to prayerfully consider making an Estimate of Giving. We are planning a Celebration Sunday for the entire congregation on **November 21** to highlight and celebrate the campaign. Please join us as we answer the call to stewardship. Look for Estimate of Giving cards in the mail or online.

CÉSAR CHÁVEZ FOOD PANTRY

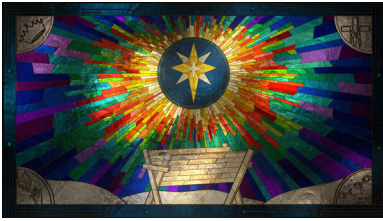


Cesar Chavez Elementary continues to stock its Food Pantry shelves! Right now The Top 6 Most Wanted items are household necessities. We will continue to bring food items (no glass please!), but for the fall – this is their greatest need. Thank you for continuing to support these precious children! For further information, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Sharon Boecking at: sboecking@fpcedmond.org. Donations due November 15th.

- Laundry soap - Tooth paste - Body soap - Dryer sheets - Bathroom cleaners - Disinfectant cleaners

FIRST, BY THE NUMBERS

- Nine people attended our New Members classes in October
- September year-to-date Receipts were \$1,685,930 (or 106.3% of budget).
- September year-to-date Expenses were \$1,751,122 (or 92.2% of budget).
- Average Sunday Morning attendance (combining both online & in person):
 - August 572
 - September 442
 - October 487
- After 10 yrs at FPCE, Pastor Matt Jones has taken his sabbatical this fall during the months of August, September, and October. We are happy to welcome him back on November 1st!



PREPARE for Christmas!

Advent is just around the corner and our Christmas plans are already in the works! Pastor Eric and Pastor Matt will be preaching a sermon series entitled **"Isaiah 40: Prepare The Way of the Lord."** This will be a powerful season at FPCE, and we would love for you to be part of helping our church family "Prepare" for Christmas. Advent begins on **Sunday, November 28**, and our children's Christmas program "Star Search" will be that afternoon at **4pm**. Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 10 at 6pm** when we will have our Night of Worship titled, "Prepare Him Room." All are welcome for this meaningful worship service including lots of Christmas carols and candle-light. We will have an Advent devotional available to enrich your quiet times during Advent and of course our **Christmas Eve services at 4pm and 6pm**. All of this information will be available on our seasonal website: **christmas4edmond.com**. We hope that you will reach out to friends and neighbors to include them in our celebration of Christmas however you feel led. Share the website, share the devotional, share the joy of the season with our FPCE family!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

It Is Never Too Early

by: Paul Thomson, FPCE Endowment Board Chair

"If only ..." I have said those words and more than once. Perhaps you have too. Philosophers tell us mistakes are generally of two kinds: those we make while doing something, for example, $2+2=5$, and those we make because we did not act. These are actually more often the case.

If we have not prepared for the transfer of our property by the day Our Lord calls, transfer will default to the earthly courts. Courts that handle inheritance of property, probate courts, are clogged with cases because people did not prepare for the day. Determining the rightful heir, is the role of the court and a determination can take a long time and be very expensive. All of this is easily avoidable.

But a Will is not enough. Many believe that preparing a Will is all that is necessary to assure that



our wishes are honored. A Will can be helpful to the court but by itself insufficient to avoid probate, especially if it is contested.

Estate planning professionals can guide us through the legal requirements to avoid probate and see that our wishes are followed in an efficient and timely manner. Marilyn and I took this step some years ago because life does not come with a date certain. We wanted the peace of knowing that our family and our church would be provided for on that day. Yes, it would be easier if people came with a "Save by date". If only....