



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF EDMOND

# FIRST LOOK

SEPTEMBER 2021



FEATURE ARTICLE:  
Core Practice #1:  
SHARE WHO YOU ARE

*Family  
Ministries*

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT:  
THE ENDOWMENT FUND

SEPTEMBER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Intern, Brynnan Duncan hangs  
out with students after school



## VISION MOMENT

### Invest in People: FPCE Family Ministries

by: Brett Hardy, Director of  
Emerging Generations

This fall I took a course through Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary called "Church Planting." The entire premise of the course walked us through the need and urgency of getting more churches planted not only across the world, but especially here in the United States. Without going into the specifics of the course and the reasons for this tremendous need, there was one thing that struck me in particular as the course came to an end. Each participant in the course had to present a plan



of action that they might take if they were to "plant a church" here in the United States. Unequivocally, every single person that presented had a similar theme to the "why" behind their church plant. That theme? Authentic relationships. Isn't that interesting? In a

## 7CORE | PRACTICES

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

time where we are more "connected" than we have ever been before with social media, online church, online meetings, facetime, text messages, snapchat, tiktok, etc... from the tip of the Northeast corner of the US to the shorelines of California, there remains a singular longing: authentic relationships. Our Family Ministry team here at First Presbyterian Church of Edmond resonates with that desire as well. Our desire is that each of our ministries, whether that is our Early Childhood Program, or our Kids Ministry, Student Ministry or Emerging Generations - that every ministry that ministers to your family - is built upon the core value of "sharing who we are." This is core value number one at FPCE. Don't get me wrong, this is not easy. For many of us, myself included, we have built our lives around a routine that involves pulling in the garage and closing the door behind us and backyard fences that give us the privacy we think we are longing for. And yet, we spend countless hours scrolling through social media to try and feel more connected to one another. Here is what our team wants you to know: we want to share community with you and your family. We want to do life with you. We want to eat meals together, celebrate the wins of life with you, pray with you, and even cry with you when the valleys of life come along. So please,

consider this your invitation to do life with us. We have lots of real-



ly great programming lined up this fall for everyone in the family, from Wednesday nights to Sunday mornings. But more importantly, we want to connect with you and share who we are - and hear who you are too. You interested? Great! Below is my email, as well as the rest of the Family Ministry team here at First Pres. We would love to connect with you. ■

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Mary Singleton, Early Childhood  
Program (ECP)  
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#### September Menus:

- 9/8 Taco Salad with Cheese Quesadillas
- 9/15 Chicken Tetrazzini
- 9/22 BBQ Brisket
- 9/29 Chicken Caesar Salad

**Wednesday Night Gathering** - GET YOUR MID-WEEK BOOST! Our Gathering meals will begin on **September 8th**. Serving will be from **5:15-5:45pm** in the Great Hall for social distancing purposes. 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 will be held from 6-7:30pm following the meal. Kids Ministry meets in the FPCE Kids Room (Rm 1237), and Student Ministry will meet in the Yinger Youth Center. Worship Choir rehearsal and Adult classes are also meeting from 6-7:30pm. "The Pastor's Bible Study," Choir, Kid & Student Min. are all beginning on Sept. 1st. "Simple Methods to Get More Out of Bible Studies" begins Sept. 8th, and "A Journey to Restoration" begins Sept. 15th. Come see what we have to offer on Wednesday nights!



**"Twelve Women of the Bible: Life Changing Stories for Women Today"** is a time-abbreviated study with young mothers in mind. The video and study is by well-published Christian author Lysa Terkeurst and will be facilitated by FPCE's Carol Hartzog. It is being offered at 8 p.m. Mondays on Zoom – after the children have (hopefully!) settled. It will follow a 7-week schedule: Sept. 13-Nov. 1. Attend as you are able. To register and for the Zoom ID, please contact Jamie Mullings at [jmullings@fpcedmond.org](mailto:jmullings@fpcedmond.org). Join us!

WOMEN'S  
MINISTRY  
FALL STUDY

CHOOSE  
BETWEEN 3  
DIFFERENT  
MEETING TIMES

REGISTER  
TODAY!



This fall the Women's Ministry of FPCE will be studying **Elijah**, a 7-week study by Priscilla Shirer, beginning the week of September 12. Choose from 3 different meeting times:

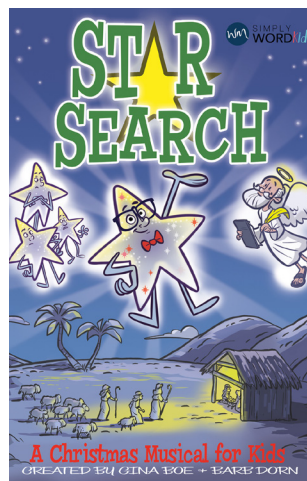
- 7:00-8:30p.m. Tuesdays ZOOM
- 9:15-11:15a.m. Wednesdays
- 8:30-10:30a.m. Saturdays

The cost is \$20, and includes a study guide. Registration is available online or in the Great Hall for the next several weeks. For more information, contact Dana McLain at [momrunr@aol.com](mailto:momrunr@aol.com). We hope you'll kick off your fall with us as we dive into this rich study!



**God's Special Time**

The Women's Kairos Prison ministry for this fall is September 30-October 3. I need your cookies by **3:00pm Wednesday, September 29**. Please take them to the Church Office and I will pick them up there. There are specific types of cookies that you can donate, these include Oatmeal, Chocolate Chip, & Peanut Butter. Do not add any fruit or nuts to the cookies nor sprinkle sugar on top. Place cookies in even dozens in boxes. Label each box with type of cookie and how many dozen. Put wax paper between each layer. Contact Julie at [julia.cox@cox.net](mailto:julia.cox@cox.net) for more info.



FPCE | **KIDS**  
&  
FPCE | **WORSHIP**  
**PRESENTS**

**"STAR SEARCH"**  
**kid's musical**

**sun., nov. 28th**  
**@ 4pm**  
**in the sanctuary**

**kids K-7th grade**  
**welcome to participate!**

### Kids MUSICAL!

Beginning on Sept. 12th, all PreK through 6th grade meet in the FPCE Kids Room (Rm 1237) at 10am each Sunday. We will start practicing for the Christmas Kids musical called, "Star Search." The musical will be November 28th at 4pm. Most of the rehearsals will be during the Sunday School hour.

**CÉSAR CHÀVEZ**  
**FOOD PANTRY**



Cesar Chavez Elementary is stocking their Food Pantry shelves once again! Laura McGee, their Principal and our long-time friend, has informed us that right now The Top 6 Most Wanted items are household necessities. We will continue to bring food items (no glass please!), but for the months of September and October – this is their greatest need. Thank you for continuing to support these precious children!

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

Info: [sboecking@fpcedmond.org](mailto:sboecking@fpcedmond.org)



### Lemonade & Sweet Treats

On Sunday, September 12th, the Women's Circles at First Pres. will be offering Lemonade and Sweet Treats between services and following second service in the Great Hall as a fundraiser for their annual scholarship fund. The Women's

Ministry Scholarship is always awarded to a deserving senior, college student or vo-tech who is a member of FPCE. Not attending live church, you can still support by mailing in your donation to FPCE and indicating for the scholarship fund. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, September 12th. Prov. 22:6 *"Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it."*



# FIRST, BY THE NUMBERS

## Financial Highlights

### ■ How did we do in 2020?

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenue	\$2,452,726	\$2,487,000	(\$34,274)
Expenses	\$2,331,199	\$2,499,074	(\$167,875)
Surplus	\$121,527	(\$12,074)	\$133,601

### ■ 2021 Budget

\$2,460,764 (.3% increase over the \$2,452,764 in Total Revenue for 2020)

### ■ How are we doing so far this year?

(Through 6/30/21)

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenue	\$1,217,395	\$1,143,304	\$74,091
Expenses	\$1,093,205	\$1,280,441	(\$187,236)
Sub-Total	\$124,190	(\$137,137)	\$261,327

### ■ PPP Money from 2020

\$408,885

Current Operating Cash on Hand

\$611,896

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

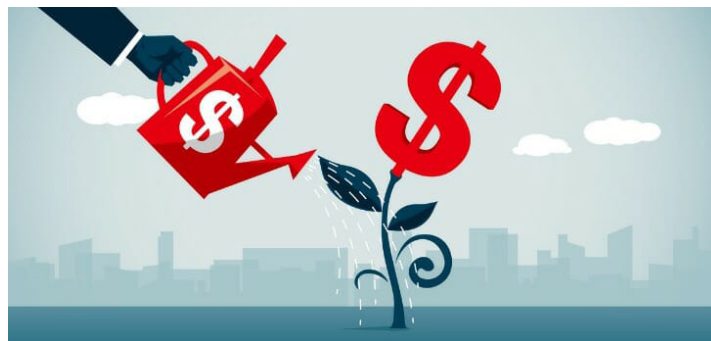
### One Contribution, Many Gifts "For the Long Term"

by: Paul Thomson, FPCE Endowment Board Chairman

"I don't want flowers, they just make me sneeze!" was my mother's wish when we had "that" meeting all children of elderly parents know will come one day. My mother's ironic sense of humor notwithstanding, she was realistic about the need to make end of life plans if for no other reason than to make that time easier for her two sons.

Yes, she included the church in her estate, but we were not prepared for the many contributions, "in lieu of flowers", suggested in her obituary. We agreed that they should be used to benefit the church, but how? My brother suggested we let the pastor decide. Good idea I thought, but something nagged at me.

In her family, church and career as a college librarian she believed in investing in people. She did so



with her time and money and believed that "in time, good will beget good". That was it then. We would add the money to the Church endowment. Each year since, the endowment has provided money for the Church. We take comfort in knowing that the contributions are part of it and still at work each year over the many years since her passing.

There are many occasions for celebration. They may be the life of a friend or loved-one, the birth of a child, a special anniversary, or to honor a coworker, volunteer or missionary, just to list a few. When those occasions arise consider to do as my brother and I did and make a contribution, small or large, to the Church endowment. It matters, in the long term.