



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDMOND

FIRST LOOK

OCTOBER 2020

FEATURE ARTICLE:

New Life for the world

New Food Pantry

Teacher Tiffany Hill greets students of César Chávez Elementary in south OKC at a Meet the Teachers Parade at the beginning of the school year

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT:

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

OCTOBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



VISION MOMENT

Changing a Community through Education

By: Laura McGee

Principal, César Chávez Elementary School, South OKC

As Jesus instructed, we are called to be Salt and Light to the entire world, not just the city where we live.

You are a meaningful partner to Central Middle School, where I know first-hand the tremendous impact you continue to make on your city. This partnership was first formed as you sought to serve the school across the street from your beautiful campus while I was principal. Now, your ministry continues, out from your Jerusalem and into your Judea-Samaria as your reach expands to the southside of Oklahoma City where I now lead. César Chávez Elementary serves 740 primarily-Hispanic students in PreK- 4th grade. One hundred percent of our students eat free breakfast and lunch at school. Many of our students suffer from food insecurity, not knowing if they will eat meals on a daily basis at home, especially on the week-ends.

When measuring childhood trauma, educational experts utilize the ACE score which factors the number of adverse childhood experiences students have suffered. Our ACE scores are among the highest in the entire district, meaning that our students have and often continue to suffer extreme amounts of trauma. While our students come to us with seemingly insurmountable obstacles, we believe we can change the entire community through education, leadership, and service.

We serve a very fragile population and are working diligently to create a warm, inviting, safe, secure place for students and families to learn, grow, and thrive. Meeting our families' basic needs is paramount.

to visit their loved-ones, I know they will share stories of the impact you will have on our school. In that moment, dear FPCE, your ministry will have reached the ends of the earth.



César Chávez Pre-K teachers lined up at the drive-through Meet the Teachers Parade

Just as Jesus met the physical-needs of those to whom He ministered before addressing their spiritual needs, we seek to meet our students' physical needs in order to prepare a pathway to academic success. Because you and I are already partners, we can immediately meet these urgent physical needs that otherwise would pose great challenges for our students. What an unbelievable blessing that you will provide for the physical needs of vulnerable children through the food pantry you are creating.

I was 17 when the Lord planted a dream of serving Hispanic families in my heart. Now, almost 30 years later, my journey brings me to this precious school, where I have been called to lead. I am ready. I have been more than ready for years, but I am so grateful for His timing and for you.

You have said "Yes" to the Lord as well. Your availability is now. Once again, I am overwhelmed by the way your love for Jesus moves you to action. When our families return to their home Hispanic countries

FPCE's goal is to supply the school with a food pantry and replenish it each month. With 100 students still in need each week, we will work to collect the below items in quantities of 400 and distribute the food to the school on a monthly basis. Please drop off your donation at the front desk or in the Great Hall by the 15th of each month.

Non-Perishable Items Needed:

Applesauce, crackers, peanut butter, string cheese, non-refrigerated milk, juice, cereal, granola bars, fruit snacks, Easy Mac, any non-perishable food

Basic Hygiene Items Needed:

shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, brush



Family MATTERS
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
SHARING LIFE THROUGH EACH SEASON
JOIN US!
SUNDAY MORNINGS
10AM | RM 1205

Family Matters Class

This class is for all adults that are raising kids at home and will resume on **Sunday, October 25th**. We're so excited about the 3 new mentor couples that will lead this fun group – Tim & Ruthie Hast, Dave & Nancy Martin and Henry & Sharon Boecking! Don't miss this friendly, discussion-based class!

MAKE A NOTE!

Staff Appreciation Month

October is Staff Appreciation Month! Reach out to encourage a church staff member with a note, email, or kind word. Please contact Sarah Timberlake at sttimberlake@dstda.com for more information about how to help celebrate the staff.



Stewardship Campaign

On Sunday, October 18th, we will begin our Stewardship Campaign titled, "Our Rock in the Storm." Not counting dollar amounts, but instead emphasizing individual estimates of giving cards, we will encourage everyone who considers FPCE their church home to return an estimate card by **Sunday, November 15th**. We hope you will be blessed to consider your own commitment for 2021.



Kids & Students Survey
Kids Ministry & Student Ministry are developing a plan for returning on Sunday mornings. If you have a child or a student, we invite you to take our survey to let us know how we can best serve your family on Sunday mornings. The QR code above will take you to the survey, but the code will expire on **October 10th**. Check it out today! Your input is important to us, and we hope to hear from you!



SEND GOOD NEWS AND GREAT JOY
PACK A SHOEBOX
Samaritan's Purse

Operation Christmas Child

Christmas is coming early this year! We need your help to get Operation Christmas Child boxes to kids in need of some Christmas spirit! This year we have made our goal 300 boxes. We would love for you to "adopt a box" or two or three. *There is no need to buy the shoe boxes... Operation Christmas Child cardboard boxes have already been delivered to the church.* We just need to fill them. You can find them in the Great Hall every Sunday and at the front desk Monday through Friday from 9am to noon. Please come by and pick up a box and fill it up with goodies. Return your boxes by **Sunday, November 15th** to the table in the Great Hall. If you have any questions please email Danielle at djones@fpcedmond.org.



October Menus:

- 10/7 Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad
- 10/14 Fall Break - no dinner
- 10/21 Lasagna Casserole
- 10/28 Tomato Basil Soup & Grilled Cheese

Wednesday Night Gathering
Tired of take-out meals? Come to the Great Hall on Wednesdays from 5:15-5:45pm for a complete "home-cooked" meal: \$6/person, or \$24 maximum/family. **To reserve your place, call the church office (341-3602) by Monday at 5:00pm each week.**

Classes for all ages will be held from 6-7:30pm following the meal. Kids Ministry will meet on the playground, and Student Ministry will meet drive-in style in the back parking lot behind the gym. Come join us!



THE LIBRARY IS RE-OPENING
BEGINNING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

We look forward to welcoming you back...

SUNDAY MORNINGS FROM 9:45 - 11:15A.M.

Library at First Pres is re-opening Sunday mornings 9:45-11:15a.m. beginning **October 4th**. The following safety guidelines will be required by all library staff and patrons:

- A library staff person must be present when the library is in use.
- Masks and social distancing will be observed.
- Library staff will check out items for the patrons.
- Children's Section will be temporarily closed for browsing.

The library staff will retrieve any items upon request for children and adults. Browse our online catalog at: fpce.follettdestiny.com. All library materials may be made available upon request by contacting the Main Office or library staff member (Carol Harrison, Libby Cahalan, Michele Ramsdell). *Note:* The library staff is observing safety guidelines which include sanitizing all returned items and quarantining them for a period of 7 days before re-shelving. We're looking forward to seeing you again!

FIRST, BY THE NUMBERS

- Month of September:
- YouTube: 211 Views - 4013 Minutes watched
- Web/App Views: 487 Views
- Facebook: 211 Views
- August revenue: \$191,340.75
- YTD revenue: \$1,792,534.78
- August expense: \$191,783.79
- YTD expense: \$1,663,556.96
- August net deficit: \$443.04
- YTD net Surplus: \$128,977.82
- August gifts: \$190,490.99
- August budgeted: \$168,790.00

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Christmas is coming!

by: Kyle Owen, Director of Music & Worship Arts

Seven months ago when the pandemic began, we did not comprehend that we might still be living in the midst of a COVID-19 world heading into fall. So much about even our near future is still unknown: will our kids go back to school soon; will we be safe to return to all our normal activities; will we get to Trick-or-Treat? But the one thing we can count on is the hope of Christmas! We will definitely be celebrating Christmas!

Over the past several weeks your FPCE staff has been praying and dreaming about what God will reveal to use through His Word regarding our celebration of Christmas. This year our focus will be 'Peace on Earth.' I know it is hard to think about peace in the world we live in right now. The division among people, being a parent and a teacher for your kids, and balancing all that has been placed before us seems far from peaceful. God has been speaking as we have begun planning, and we are expectant that God will use this Christmas to help us all find peace - real peace with God and others as we travel these rough waters. We are working hard to create resources and tools for you, and we can't wait to share more with you in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more information, and go check out christmas4edmond.com. We invite you to join in praying with us for our Christmas plans and for a person whom God might lead you to invite into our community this Christmas season. We will seek, find, share, and receive peace this Christmas when we look to the gift of Jesus our Savior.



The FOOTSTEPS of JESUS WEEKEND EXPERIENCE

SAVE THE DATE: NOV. 6 & 7

Register online or the app
Childcare available

(Registration will be available soon!)

Bob Rognlien, Holy Land guide and scholar, will be returning to FPCE for a Footsteps of Jesus Weekend Experience November 6 & 7. An incredible opportunity to experience the life of Jesus like you never have before! Incorporating archaeology, history and the Bible, this journey will take us from Jesus' birth in Bethlehem to his death and resurrection in Jerusalem. This event is for everyone, so don't delay – register today!