

Youth Ministry Report

Youth Ministry Report 2019

The Youth Ministry includes the youth in Junior High (6th-8th) under the care of Karl Kvale and Abby St. John, and the Senior High (9th-12th) under my leadership. I joined the pastoral team at FPC as Assistant Pastor officially in July 2019.

This past year, the Senior High Youth ministry focused on growing in faith, knowledge, and the pursuit and love of the Lord. In addition to regular church activities, we met weekly in two large group settings to develop Christian community and discipleship:

- Highschool Sunday School (*approx. 20-25 youth*) – focused on developing godly perspectives by addressing issues of self-image, pride, perfectionism, body-image, guilt, shame, depression, grief, anger and bitterness from a Christian perspective.
- Wednesday Night Youth Group (*approx. 30-35 youth*) – focused on loving God with a “Four-Pronged approach” (Lk. 10:27): Loving God with all *our Heart* (compassion for the lost), *Soul* (purity and holiness), *Strength* (Maturity and Discipline) and *Mind* (Knowing and Understanding). We also developed a musical team of eight who rotated on and off (voice, piano, guitar, and violin) to lead the youth events in worship.

Small Group Discipleship

Guys' discipleship (*approx. 10-15 guys*) met Tuesdays and used JC Ryle's book, *Holiness* and Bonhoeffer's, *The Cost of Discipleship*. While I led the guys' discipleship group, three women from the faculty of Covenant Highschool (including Wendy Tamminga and Melissa McMillan) led the girls' discipleship group (*approx. 15-18 girls*).

Individual Pastoral Meetings

In addition to group settings, I also started meeting with each of the Senior High youth one-on-one. The hope is to assist, pastor and disciple the youth in more individually specific ways and be accessible to them when they are faced with difficult questions and circumstances in life.

2019 Events and Transition

We give God thanks for a smooth transition in the youth ministry leadership. The spring and summer months provided great opportunities to get to know the youth better. Throughout the year we saw a significant level of involvement from the youth at the Snow Retreat, Jr./Sr. high-school retreat, Sacred Road mission trip, YXL leadership trip to Colorado (led by Wendy Tamminga) and had a perfect ending to the summer with a Rainier's baseball game with fireworks, for the Sr. and Jr. High (made possible by a generous donation). In the fall we enjoyed pumpkin-carving contests, and in the winter we served Pastor Nicoletti by filling his study with over 300 balloons for his birthday. 2019 ended with the most wonderful Christmas party we could have asked for with bountiful brisket and gingerbread houses (special thanks to the Knight family)! If that wasn't enough, 75 people signed up for the Snow Retreat with youth attending from CHS, churches in Tacoma, Salem, OR and nearly 100% of our FPC youth!

Thank you for all the encouragement our youth ministry has received. Your prayers, notes, words of encouragement, generosity and volunteer work has made this year a great success.

In Him,
Nathaniel Gutiérrez – Assistant Pastor