

# Pastor's Nickel

## Pastor's Nickel – Covenant Ministries (Youth Ministry)

Written by Pastor Kevin VanderVeen



*Pastor's Nickel*

How do you build a ministry to young people that is sustainable long-term? The answer to that question is both slowly and by focusing on principles. Fuller Youth Institute conducted a study that they called "Growing Young". This study focused on practices in churches that lead to effective engagement with young people. What they found were a series of practices based upon principles. A few include: treating parents as active partners in discipleship, worship that is engaging and intergenerational, and focusing on building peer and intergenerational relationships. As we think about our ministry to young people at Covenant, our focus is not to give young people a fun youth group experience. Rather our focus is to form their faith so that they become life-long disciples of Jesus Christ. Richard Ross, a youth pastor of 30 years said, "Youth Ministry that doesn't last a lifetime doesn't matter very much. "To me, that means that we must focus our ministry on the principles that will give our approach to discipleship focus and meaningful content..

*That's my nickel. Pastor Kevin VanderVeen*