

First Christian Church
3501 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

Office: (479) 783-1139
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Office Hours:
8:30am –4:30pm
Monday-Thursday

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks
Senior Minister
252-414-9229
jarrett@fccdoc.org

Dianna Jackson
Director of Music Ministry

Evan Mino
Organist

Barbara Brown
Secretary

Pam Shelby
Financial Secretary

Randy Alexander
Custodian

Patience Hudlow
Nursery Coordinator

Lesley Fleming
Nursery Attendant

Mission Statement

The mission of First Christian Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas is to lift up Jesus the Christ by:

- Enabling spiritual growth and deepened commitment, both individually and corporately;
- Developing a church family/ community that is accepting and encouraging;
- Serving our community and the world through spiritual, physical, and emotional support; and,
- Reaching out in His name to the unchurched in our community.

Only Love Drives out Hate

I met a woman recently who said: “Jarrett, I cannot wait for you to meet my husband. He is a retired minister.”

“I would love to meet him,” I said. “I bet we have a lot to talk about.”

“You sure do!” she responded. “He hates a lot of things about church just like you do!”

Initially, I responded to the woman by laughing and saying something like: “That’s right! I am certain that we will have a lot to talk about!” However, as I got in my car and drove back to my office, I thought about the tragedy of being primarily known in this world for what I hate.

If you have read my articles or listened to my sermons, you have heard me express some of my negative emotions regarding the church. I have criticized the church for being self-righteous, judgmental, exclusive, sexist, racist, homophobic, and ignorant. I have said that the church oftentimes looks more like a country club for the pompous than the Body of Christ doing the things Jesus did and loving the people Jesus loved. The reality is that there are many things about the church that I hate.

As I drove and reflected on the woman’s words, I was reminded of the words of Martin Luther King, Jr: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

I then asked myself: “Jarrett, what are you doing, what are you preaching and writing, how are you living, that shines the light of love?”

“Jarrett, what are you doing to be humble, accepting, and inclusive? What are you doing to do justice on the behalf of every person, to value the sacred worth of all people: abled and disabled, male and female, black and white, Hispanic and Asian, gay and straight, open-minded and close-minded, Christian and non-Christian? Jarrett, what are you doing to look like, act like, and be like Jesus in this world?”

If I can begin to work on these questions, maybe a time will come in my life when another person will approach me one day and say: “Jarrett, I cannot wait for you to meet my spouse. She is a retired minister. Her light shines in this dark world just like yours. She loves people and the church just like you!”

Worship and Education Opportunities

Worship—January 14

John 1:43-51
“Come and See”

Elders

Brad Kidder, Sr. and Nina Abernathy

Deacons

Jesse Bailey (Foreman), Connie Alexander, Floyd Hamm, Ginger Hamm, Jimmy Hudlow, Ben Maxey, Marilyn Maxey, Suzanne Underwood

Prepare Communion

Patience Hudlow

Greeters

Ben Maxey, Connie Alexander

Worship Leader

Brad Kidder, Sr.

The office will be closed Monday, January 15, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

2018 MLK DAY Celebration

Theme: *Love and Unity in the Service of Hope*

UAFS CAMPUS

Monday, January 15

Time: 7:30 am

- ◆ *MLK Day Breakfast (Reynolds Room)*
- ◆ Panel Discussion: Love and Unity in the Service of Hope (Reynolds Room)

The Panelists are alumni of Lincoln High School. They will each share their experience in attending an all-black high school in Fort Smith, how they integrated North Side High School after the closing of Lincoln High School, what it took for them to forgive the discrimination that they faced, and draw from one of Dr. Martin Luther King's ideals to discuss their hopeful aspirations for Arkansas and for the United States of America.

Lindsay Scholarship

It's time again for all college students to apply for scholarship money available through the Lindsay Scholarship fund.

Contact the church office for a form or print the scholarship form attached to this email.

Library News

The following best sellers have been added to our library:

- *Hillybilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance
- *The Mistletoe Inn* by Richard Paul Evans
- *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee
- *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel

MLK Community Association 32nd Annual Recognition and Awards Banquet

Theme: “Love and Unity in the Service of Hope”

Saturday, January 13

7:00 pm

University of Arkansas Fort Smith

Smith-Pendergraft Building

Reynolds Room

Tables \$350 (seats 10)

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Cabinet & Ministries Sunday, January 14

6 pm: Cabinet

(in the Chapel, Administration Building)

6:45 pm: Ministries (in various rooms)

Chairs: please contact your people and let them know where /when your Ministry will meet.

2018 Youth Club Resumes January 17!

Youth Club resumes Wednesday, January 17, at 5:30 pm. We will be making items for Group 3 to include in their Valentine Love Bags for our home-bound. They will be so excited to see your children's homemade love gifts for them! If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Marilyn at 452-6345 or topnana@cox.net.

Christian Education Ministry

Potluck Meal, Sunday, January 21

The Membership Ministry will be heading up a potluck meal immediately after church on **Sunday, January 21**. Watch for the newsletter next week to see what we would like for you to bring. These meals are always a good time, so we would like to have everyone there that can stay and eat and fellowship together.

Church Women United

Annual Business Meeting

Friday, January 19, 9:30 am

St. Scholastica Retreat Center

1301 S. Albert Pike

Please use the main entrance to the building on the east wing.

Community Celebration "Practicing the Golden Rule"

What IF...we practice compassion, hope, tolerance, and acceptance?

Thursday, February 15

7:00 pm

Reynolds Ballroom/Student Center at UAFS

"What IF...we practice?"

Hosted by

Interfaith Fellowship
& UAFS Cultural Network

Prayer Concern

- ◆ **Gwen Long's** new address is:
Brookdale Assisted Living
5501 Duncan Road, #217
Fort Smith, AR 72903

Announcements

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 14

- 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
- 9:00 am Mission Café
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:25 am Opportunity for Prayer
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 pm Disciples Bells
- 6:00 pm Cabinet
- 6:45 pm Ministries

Monday, January 15

Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 16

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 17

- 4:15 pm Children’s Music
- 5:30 pm Youth Club
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 18


- 10:00 pm Prime Time Bells

Friday, January 19

- 9:30 pm Church Women United
St. Scholastica Retreat Center

Pictorial Directory

The Membership Ministry will be working with Lifetouch to create a new church pictorial directory in the coming month. Pictures will be made on **Friday, February 9, and Saturday, February 10**. Please save these dates to have your picture made for this directory. We want everyone to be included in this new directory. There will be more information coming starting within the next week.

 **MEMORIAL:** We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts, given as a thoughtful expression of sympathy and of care...
In Memory of **Norma Quintaly, Neill Noel’s Sister**, by Allen & Mary Nelle Hales

Mission Express O Café

The café opens at **9:00 am each Sunday** morning. All the proceeds support the Mission trips. Setup **begins at 8:30 am Sunday**. Come join us for fellowship, a cup of coffee and doughnuts.

For the Record—January 7

Operating Receipts	\$ 6,861.00
Endowment.....	375.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs.....	33,361.63

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