



Fort Smith Disciple

February 14, 2018
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First Christian Church
3501 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

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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

Rev. Soniyah Key

Associate Minister Intern

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.

Season of Unpleasant Uncomfortability

A few years ago an Episcopal church in a coastal South Carolina town created a ruckus when it placed three crosses on the lawn adjacent to their church. They draped them in purple for Lent. After a week or so, the church received a call from the local Chamber of Commerce.

They called complaining, “We hate to cause any trouble, but Spring Break is right the corner, and the tourist season is starting to crank up. And we think those crosses that you’ve erected are just sending the wrong message to visitors on the beach. People don’t want to come down here for a vacation and be confronted with unpleasantness. On vacation, people want to be escape from all of the unpleasantness of life and relax, be comfortable.”

Well, after much debate, the church stood its ground, and the three crosses stayed. “It’s Lent,” said the church. “People are supposed to be uncomfortable.” William Willimon calls Lent “the season of unpleasant uncomfortable.”

Willimon says that one of the reasons this season we call Lent is so unpleasant is that it forces us “to confront so many of those truths about ourselves that we spend much of the rest of our lives avoiding.” Here, during this Lenten season, “we try to tell the truth about ourselves, and sometimes the truth hurts.”

Lent is a time to honestly say: “I am rotten. I am a scoundrel. I do things that I ought not do. I know they are wrong, yet I do them anyway. I don’t do things that I know I should do. I think way too better of myself than I ought. Most of my decisions are selfish ones. Even my best deeds are tainted with pride and selfishness. I do them because I want people to like me. I want people to think I’m good. Sin—it’s so much a part of my life that I can’t escape it.”

Yes, this is the season of telling the truth, even if it pains us a bit. But here’s the good news. It’s the truth that will set you free! The good news is, the truth, no matter how hideous, no matter how disgusting, no matter how abominable, the contradiction is, the God’s honest truth will always set us free, because in Jesus Christ, we have been loved.

As the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Rome, though our sin was serious, in Christ, “grace abounded.” Our misdeeds are abundant, our sin is boundless; yet, as Paul says, in Christ we have received abundant grace and boundless grace.

To the unrighteous has been given righteousness. We could not get good enough for God, so God in Christ made us good through his saving love for us. We could not do right by God, so God in Christ did right by us.

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

Worship—February 18

Mark 1:9-15

“When Monday Morning Comes”

Elders

Linda & Jim Creekmore

Deacons

Vicki Warren (Foreman), Katy Featherston, Tim Fleming, Dewayne Pryor, Greta Pryor, Audrey Stewart, Harold Stewart, John Warren

Prepare Communion

Rebecca Parke

Greeters

Harold Stewart, Rebecca Parke

Worship Leader

Linda Creekmore

Dianna's Notes

Disciples Bells meet in the Sanctuary at 9:00 am to rehearse .

Music Schedule

February 18: Disciples Bells

February 25: Prime Time Bells

Ash Wednesday Service

Mark your calendar for Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 14, at 6:30 pm.

Pastor's Class

During Lent, Jarrett would like to offer a class for children who are interested in church membership and baptism with the hope of having a baptismal service Easter Sunday.

Please contact him if your child would like to participate.

Volunteers Needed for World Day of Prayer

We need 13 volunteers for the World Day of Prayer, **March 2** program. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Cissy Rose by email cissy.rose@me.com or by phone 479-785-1120. Deadline to notify is February 15. If you say yes, we will get the program to you ASAP.

Thank you.

Connie Slater

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Men's Supper

Monday, February 19, 6:30 PM

Menu: Pizza and salad

Senior Adults

Jarrett would like to begin a monthly Senior Adult ministry that will consist of a meal out and entertainment.

Saturday, March 10, 2:00 PM

Community School of the Arts
performance of Beauty and the Beast

World of Compassion Offering, February 18 and 25

MORE THAN A HOUSE

What makes a house a home? A house is a structure with some walls, a roof, doors and windows. That house becomes a home when it is a place where you can feel safe and loved. When you're at home, you can let your guard down. You can relax and rest.

Sometimes, though, a house isn't really a home. That was certainly the case for Roger Doris and his family. They built their house in Haiti's Northwest Department in 1989. It was a traditional mud-and-stick house, like so many in Haiti are. In 2000 and 2001, they renovated their home to replace the mud walls with concrete blocks and to add a tin roof. It was definitely a home.

Then Hurricane Matthew hit in late 2016. As the wind pounded on the house and the rain poured down, they did extensive damage to Roger's house. The walls shook and cracked. The wood support columns – which weren't particularly sturdy to start with – were damaged badly.

Overnight, that house was stripped of being a home. The family still lived there, but they were afraid. They didn't know how much longer the house would stand. That sense of security was gone. There was no more peace of mind, and no way to let down their guard.

We responded to help Roger and his family build a new house. Roger had training as an iron worker and carpenter, so he teamed up with professional masons to work on the new house. His family provided funds to pay for the new foundation and food for the workers. They also received seeds to plant so that the family would have a food and income source.

Now, the family has a house where they can feel safe. The house has a strong foundation and sturdy support columns made of rebar. More than just providing shelter, the house provides peace of mind. It is truly a home. Roger describes the house as a "miracle." He doesn't live in fear anymore.

Even through the 2017 hurricane season, when Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused damage across the island, Roger's house stood strong. Other houses like his, built with Week of Compassion support, became more than houses, more than homes--they became places of refuge in the storms.

Your gifts to Week of Compassion do more than just build houses, they help families create homes, strengthen their communities, and have peace of mind.

Your gifts do **More Than We Can Imagine!**

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

First Christian Church Leads Worship at Butterfield Place

First Christian Church will begin leading worship services at the Butterfield Place Retirement Community of Fort Smith the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month at 3:30 pm beginning February 28.

The service will be held in the chapel on the third floor and will include hymns, prayer, a sermon, and communion. All will be invited to share communion. If you are interested in helping lead the service or prepare communion, please contact Jarrett.

Announcements

Church Calendar

Sunday, February 18

Week of Compassion Offering
 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
 9:00 am Mission Café
 9:30 am Sunday School
 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
 4:30 pm Disciples Bells

Monday, February 19

6:30 pm: Men's Supper

Tuesday, February 20

9:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, February 21

4:15 pm Children's Music
 6:30 pm Youth Club
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 22

10:00 pm Prime Time Bells

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- **Mary Nelle Hales**, 3400 Sturbridge Place,
Fort Smith, AR 72903-3131

For the Record—February 11

Operating Receipts	\$ 6,059.35
To Date.....	14,225.95
Endowment.....	340.00
To Date.....	614.00
Blankets of Love.....	540.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs	33,361.63

Gift for Associate Minister Intern

First Christian Church is very grateful for the anonymous donor who is providing Soniyah Key's compensation as our Associate Minister Intern.

Disciples Women Group 3
TGI Friday
February 13
6pm

The Concordia Choir Concert

Tuesday, February 27
7:30 PM

First United Methodist Church
 200 North 15th Street

Tickets available at ConcordiaTickets.com
 800-838-3006 or at the door.

Adults	\$20
Full-Time Students	\$10

Mission Express O Café

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

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