



# Fort Smith Disciple

March 7, 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

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**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.

## Jesus Is Going to Get Us

“As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my heart longs for you, O God.” sings the psalmist. The idea that the human soul was created to long for God, to desire to be with God, is a frequent theme of our faith. Augustine, in his *Confessions*, wrote: “You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts cannot find rest until they find rest in you.”

In his autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*, C.S. Lewis testifies that for as far back as he can remember he always possessed a desire for God. He describes himself as a seeker, seeking that which he was born to seek. Yet, before he is done with his searching, Lewis writes that he was “surprised” to discover that the object he had been pursuing his entire life, had been pursuing him. The God he wanted, all the while, wanted him.

The same thing happens in Augustine’s *Confessions*. His book begins with, “I searched, I read, I wanted, I desired....I, I, I...” but it ends with “You came, you spoke, you reached, you touched me, ... you you you.” The God Augustine was reaching for, was, all the while, reaching for him. The God he was pursuing to be in relationship was pursuing a love relationship with him.

We may talk about “seeking” Jesus or even “finding” Jesus. I’ve seen bumper stickers mimicking old advertisements for the American Dairy Association. Instead of “Got milk,” it reads “Got Jesus?” as if Jesus is something that we can get, something we can hold or possess.

But the truth is that it is actually the other way around. It is Jesus who gets us. It is Jesus who pursues us until we are His. It is Jesus who promises, “And when I am lifted up, I will draw all unto myself.”

This is certainly the way our Bible tells it. Hardly anyone in the gospel stories is ever looking for Jesus. It is always Jesus who is doing the searching, the looking, the intruding. Remember, the disciples are just mending their nets, minding their own business, trying to do a decent day’s work. They are not looking for or searching for anything. Then, Jesus shows up, and changes everything.

Jesus is on a journey. He is on a journey of self-denial and sacrifice. And he is coming to get us to go with him.

**Jarrett**

## *Worship and Education Opportunities*

### **Worship—March 11**

**“Sin, Snakes and Salvation”  
John 3:14-21**

#### **Elders**

Kristi Williamson and David Trent

#### **Deacons**

Jimmy Hudlow (Foreman), Connie Alexander,  
Diane Fagan, Ginger Hamm, Janet LaForce, Alan  
Maxey, Michelle Moran, David Williamson

#### **Prepare Communion**

Diane Fagan

#### **Greeters**

David Williamson, Ginger Hamm

#### **Worship Leader**

Kristi Williamson

### **Dianna's Notes**

Children's Chimes will meet at 9:10 am  
before Sunday school to rehearse  
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”.

#### **Music Schedule**

March 11	Children's Chimes
March 18	Disciples Bells
March 25	Disciples Bells Quintet
March 29	Bruce Birkhead Carl Warrington
March 30	Disciples Bells and Chancel Choir
April 1	Disciples Bells

### **Easter Lilies**

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily to decorate our sanctuary for Easter in honor or memory of a loved one, you may do so for \$10.

In lieu of flowers, if you would like to give a gift to the church in honor or memory of a loved one, you may also do so for \$10.

### **Pastor's Class this Sunday**

This **Sunday, March 11, from 12:00 pm—3:00 pm**, Jarrett will be leading 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. If this date won't work, he can do another class before Easter.

### **DWF General Meeting, April 14**

**Mark your Calendar for  
Saturday, April 14, Noon**

All men and women are invited to this event. Lunch will be served. Guest speaker is Hope Campus.

### **July Mission Trip**

Plans are being made for a mission trip to Thoreau, New Mexico, the first week of July. More information will follow. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

# Fellowship and Service Opportunities

## Wednesday Night Programs

Our last **Children's Fellowship** for this school year will be on **Wednesday, March 7, at 5:30 pm**, after Children's Choir. We will be finishing up our Mardi Gras floats and our woodworking project, both of which we will start this coming week.

Our last **Koinonia** until late fall will be on **March 14**, and will feature Cajun food and our annual Mardi Gras Parade, starring our young people and their handmade floats! Please join us to celebrate our children as they share with us an evening of fun and fellowship! This church is so blessed to have these young people in in our midst and our support of them and their programs is crucial to the future of our church. Thanks be to God for our faithful children and our loving church family!

### Senior Adults

**Saturday, March 10, 2:00 PM**

Community School of the Arts performance of Beauty and the Beast

Please contact the church office if you would like to purchase a ticket. Tickets are \$10. We will enjoy a meal together after the show.

### Habitat for Humanity

If you are a college student looking for a great mission opportunity, Habitat for Humanity needs you.

We will be building a house in Van Buren during spring break March 18-23. Contact Jarrett or the church office.

### Possible Branson Trip

There is going to be a new production of *Sampson* at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Branson beginning March 3 through December 29. If there is an interest of at least 15 people, we can get a group rate of \$46.55 per person. This would be a day trip up and back on same day using the church van. If interested, please contact Mickie Matthews at 461-3998 or 434-5668. She will get a list together, and then we can decide as a group when we would like to make the trip.

### FCC White Elephant/Rummage Sale

Did someone say Spring cleaning!? It's time to clean out those garages, closets, kitchen cabinets and drawers. (No clothes please.). The women's and men's groups will be having a white elephant sale on **Saturday, April 21**, with a pre-sale on **Friday evening, April 20**, for church members only. All proceeds will benefit the church's general fund.

Watch for more details in the newsletter in the coming weeks! The sale has been a huge success in the past. Let's keep up the tradition!

# Announcements

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, March 11

- 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
- 9:00 am Mission Café
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 pm—3:00 pm  
Pastor’s Class
- 4:30 pm Disciples Bells
- 6:00 pm Cabinet
- 6:45 pm Ministry Teams

### Tuesday, March 13

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
- 10:00 am Group 1 (Parlor)
- 1:00 pm Group 2 (Parlor)
- 6:00 pm Group 3 (Disciples Hall)

### Wednesday, March 14

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

### Thursday, March 15

- 10:00 am Prime Time Bells

## 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.

## For the Record—March 4

Operating Receipts .....	\$ 17,588.59
Endowment.....	40.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs .....	33,361.63



## Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

### Mae Harris, Mercy

Please notify the church office or a minister if you are hospitalized or know of a member who is in the hospital. Jarrett visits the hospitals regularly.

## Thank You Notes

A heartfelt thank-you for your many prayers and acts of kindness during my recent surgery and extended recovery and bout with the flu. I am truly thankful. Your presence has been a sustaining presence.

**Neill Noel**

I wanted you to know how much I miss you since I have been ill. I hope to be back before too much longer. Also, thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, gifts, etc. They were very much appreciated.

**Betty Marley**

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