



Fort Smith Disciple

April 18, 2018
Volume 55, Number 42

First Christian Church
3501 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

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8:30am –4:30pm

Monday-Thursday

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Organist

Barbara Brown

Secretary

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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.

Get a Life: Six Things the Church Must Get to Live

The Christian faith is essentially about new life. Christ is about renewing, reviving and resurrecting life.

This is why it is so troubling that many churches are dying today, and why it is even more troubling that many more churches, in spite of their buildings, budget and attendance, as far as the world is concerned, are essentially dead.

Here are six things that I believe the church must get in order to get a life:

Get Together

The Christian faith is about coming together as a community. The first thing Jesus did to give birth to the Kingdom was to call together a community of disciples to share the good news of God’s love with others. The Christian faith is personal, but Jesus never intended it to be private. Faith should never be tucked away deep within the soul of an individual. Faith should always be worn in public, out on the sleeves of a community.

Get Down

The Christian faith is about selfless, sacrificial service. It is about God who came down through Jesus, who was laid down in a manger, who crouched down to forgive sinners, who stooped down to heal the sick, who knelt down to welcome children, who bowed down to wash another’s feet, and who bent down to take up his cross. For many, church is about getting uplifted. We need to make church about getting down.

Get Real

The Christian faith is about following someone who preached against the fake piety and hypocrisy of organized religion. In Jesus’ first sermon, he warned us about being judgmental of others who have specks in their eyes, while we have logs in our own eyes. And no one who hears the story of the woman caught in the act of adultery ever forgets Jesus’ words: “Let those without sin cast the first stone.” Therefore, no one in the church should ever act as if he or she is superior to anyone.

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Get Serious

The Christian faith is about serious grace. With grace, Jesus always seemed to overdo it. 180 gallons of wine is a serious amount of wine for a small wedding party. The gift of the best robe, a ring, a fatted calf, loud music and dancing is a serious gift for a prodigal son. If the church is to ever have life again, the church must share this serious, extravagant grace with others, even while others accuse us of seriously overdoing it.

Get Up

The Christian faith is about prophetic justice. Jesus announced God's new Kingdom by quoting the prophet Isaiah, saying that he had come "to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and to let the oppressed go free." The church must always be willing to get up and stand up for the liberty and justice for all, especially the poor, the disabled, and the marginalized.

Get Out

The Christian faith is about getting out into the world. Jesus was always out on the move, going out to the people. To be a church that is alive, the church needs to get out of the sanctuary and go to the places Jesus went, see the people Jesus saw, and do the things Jesus did.

Will there be folks in the world who will despise us for it? According to Jesus: most definitely; but at least the world will know that we are alive.

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities***Worship—April 15***

"Love One Another"
I John 3:16-24

Elders

Shawn Moore and Ruth Carson

Deacons

Greta Pryor (Foreman), Katy Featherston,
Floyd Hamm, Ben Maxey, Marilyn Maxey,
Dewayne Pryor, John Warren, Vicki Warren

Prepare Communion

Greta Pryor

Greeters

Dewayne and Greta Pryor

Worship Leader

Shawn Moore

Dianna's Notes**Music Schedule**

April 22	Prime Time Bells
April 29	Bell Solo
May 6	Disciples Bells
May 13	Children's Choir

Meeting, First Christian Church, Disciples Hall
Sunday, May 6, 7:00 pm

ARKANSAS

Poor People's Campaign
A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

Getting' Down and Dirty with Jesus – A Missional VBS

Vacation Bible School is set for **Monday-Friday, June 4-8, from 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm**. The theme this year is *Getting Down and Dirty with Jesus*. This is a missional theme; therefore, children will participate in various mission projects during the week.

Along with nightly mission projects, children will participate in in-depth, interactive Bible lessons that will explore some of the ways that God gets down and dirty for us and the world through Christ, and they will be encouraged to model these ways in their daily living. The lessons will be reinforced each night with music, drama and games.

If you would like more information about this week or would like to volunteer, please contact Jimmy Hudlow at 479-259-3997.

Fellowship and Service Opportunities

FCC White Elephant/Rummage Sale April 20 and April 21

This Friday night, our rummage sale begins for church members. We will have Harold's famous pizza available by the slice, plus a few very nice items that you can purchase tickets for. Doors will open at 5:30 pm. Please come. There are lots of goodies, and you may find a real treasure. On Saturday, the sale is open to the public from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm.

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 **John Mundy at 222-3401** or the church office.

Beans and Bingo, May 2

It's time again for Beans and Bingo on **Wednesday, May 2, at 6:00 pm**. If you have a household treasure that you can part with as a prize, bring it with you. Beans and cornbread will be provided for a great time of fun and fellowship. Please come and bring a friend. This is always a good time. **Membership Ministry**

River Walk Then Wine for Arkansas Citizen's Climate League on April 27

Fort Smith's venue is the Riverfront Events Building, adjacent to the Greg Smith River Trail. At 5:00 pm on Friday, April 27, everyone is invited to walk this beautiful trail along the banks of the Arkansas River. Return by 5:45pm, when corks will be pulled for the first pour of a special Arkansas-made wine to be launched this evening. Chateaux Aux Arc vineyard of Altus introduces "Splinters," a variety specially bottled and labeled for ARCCCL to support climate action.

A meal will be catered by R & R Curry Express. Entertainment by singer-songwriters Still on the Hill follows.

Admission to River Walk Then Wine is free; donations are welcomed.

Announcements

Church Calendar

Sunday, April 22

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

Tuesday, April 24

9:00 am Staff Meeting
 6:00 pm Personnel Meeting

Wednesday, April 25

3:30 pm Butterfield Worship
 4:15 pm Children’s Music
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 26

10:00 am Prime Time Bells

Thank You

Your generous donation of almost \$600 to the Church World Service Blankets program tells people in crisis, “You’re not alone. Someone cares.”

On behalf of all the people who feel more hopeful and less alone because of your generosity, we thank you.

Church World Service

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- ◆ Please continue to keep the **Guye Willis** family in your prayers in his passing. Visitation will be held on Saturday, April 21, between 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm at First Christian Church, Baton Rouge, LA. The Memorial Service will begin at 6:00 pm. Immediately following the Memorial Service will be a reception consisting of light finger foods in the Fellowship Hall. Phyllis’ address is 14413 Wilson Way Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to First Christian Church, 8484 Old Hammond Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA, 70809 or First Christian Church, Fort Smith, AR.
- ◆ **Juanita Robinson**, Dianna Jackson’s grandmother
- ◆ **Janice Rickman**, Greta Pryor’s mother, is at Methodist Village.
- ◆ **Eckel Rowland**, Ruth Carson’s father, is at Methodist Village.
- ◆ **Mae Harris**, 2800 Heather Oaks Way, Fort Smith, AR 72908

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—April 15

Operating Receipts	\$ 15,838.00
To Date	32,389.44
Endowment	225.00
To Date	540.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs	33,361.63

Fort Smith Disciple (USPS 206-080) published weekly by First Christian Church, 3501 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith AR 72903-2961.
Periodical postage paid at Fort Smith, AR.
 POSTMASTER: Please submit address changes to FORT SMITH DISCIPLE, 3501 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72903-2961