



**First Christian Church**  
3501 Rogers Avenue  
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

**Office:** (479) 783-1139

**Office Hours:**

8:30am –4:30pm

Monday-Thursday

## Church Staff

**Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks**

Senior Minister

252-414-9229

jarrett@fccdoc.org

**Rev. Soniyah “Sonna” B. 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.

## It’s Supposed to Be Hard

As I was checking out my groceries at Harp’s last week, the cashier was complaining to the cashier next to her about the weather. “It sure is hot outside!” she grumbled.

With a little sarcasm in her voice, the cashier next to her responded, “Honey, this is July. It’s supposed to be hot!”

During a conversation with a colleague of mine about this week, we talked about the demands of church: caring for the sick, comforting the dying, officiating funerals, preparing the next sermon, writing the next newsletter article, meeting needs of the city, encouraging church members to join a ministry team, reaching out to those who have been pushed to the margins, and so on. I then grumbled: “Church sure can be hard.”

My friend responded: “Well, this is following Jesus. It’s supposed to be hard!”

My colleague’s response runs contrary to popular theology. I am afraid many Christians in our culture have some incorrect expectations regarding this journey we call “discipleship.” They mistakenly believe that following Jesus will make everything in life easier. If they commit themselves to a living a Christian life, then God will bless them with health and wealth. Relationships at home and at work will improve. Following Jesus will bring comfort and peace. Jesus will meet their every need. Success and good fortune will follow them all the days of their life.

However, Jesus said that the opposite is actually true. Following Jesus is about self-denial and self-expenditure. Following Jesus is about sacrificially giving our time, talents and resources to meet the needs of others. Following Jesus is about feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, visiting the imprisoned and caring for the sick. Following Jesus is about working hard to bring good news to the poor and leaving our comfort zones to liberate the oppressed.

Jesus once said, “...the road is hard that leads to life...” (Matthew 7:14).

In other words, “Honey, this is following Jesus. It’s supposed to be hard!”

**Jarrett**

## Fort Smith Is Hungry

Arkansas is #5 in the country for family food insufficiency. Let’s use our summer Service Project to combat local scarcity by donating to the **“SACK LUNCH PROGRAM”**. The wish list includes mayonnaise, mustard, peanut butter, jelly and canned tuna. Any package size is welcome and will be used this summer.

There is a box in Disciples Hall labeled to receive (with many thanks!!) your generous donation.

**Margot**

## Seekers Class Begins Mayberry Bible Study

The Seekers Sunday School class, led by Danny Lynch, began a series of study curriculum titled *The Mayberry Bible Study*. The series will run for 12 weeks. It is based on episodes of *The Andy Griffith Show* and will consist of viewing an episode, studying a relevant Scripture, and discussion. If you’re interested in joining us, we meet at 9:30 am in the Seekers classroom. Thanks.

**Nick**

**Worship and Education Opportunities**

**Fellowship and Service Opportunities**

**Worship—July 29**

**“Another Way”  
John 6:1-21**

**Elders**

Zena Marshall and Brad Kidder, Jr.

**Deacons**

Janet LaForce (Foreman), Jesse Bailey, Stephanie Bailey, Diane Fagan, Bob Harris, Greta Pryor, Tim Randolph

**Prepare Communion**

Rebecca Parke

**Greeters**

Tim Randolph and Diane Fagan

**Worship Leader**

Zena Marshall

**Church Calendar**

**Sunday, July 29**

- 8:00 am Elders’ Meeting
- 9:00 am Mission Café
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)

**Tuesday, July 31**

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting

**Dianna’s Notes**

**Concerns and Celebrations of the Community**

**Music Schedule**

**July 29** Evan Mino and Jack Jackson II, Horn Duet

- **Dewayne Pryor** in the passing of his dad, Donny Morrow
- **Irvin Moyle**, 1001 Third Terrace, Barling, AR 72923
- **Kaycee Young**, 1901 South 71<sup>st</sup> St., Fort Smith, AR 72903
- **Mercedes Allen**, 109 Kennedy Circle, Roland, OK 74954

Please contact the church office with the name of any member of our congregation who has been sick or is hospitalized.

**One Service This Sunday**

This **Sunday, July 29**, we will only have one worship service at 10:45 am as we are having a baptismal service. Our newest church member, **Anthony An Truong**, 19, will be baptized. We believe every worshipper of First Christian should be a part of this service as we celebrate Anthony’s public profession of faith and pledge our love and support. Please plan to be a part of this meaningful service. The 8:30 am service will resume on August 5. Anthony An Truong’s address is: 1206 N 15<sup>th</sup> St., Fort Smith, AR 72901

**Help Needed with Ainsley’s Angels in Arkansas’ One-Year Anniversary Dinner and 5k**

On **August 10 and August 11**, we are commemorating one year of inclusion, advocacy and joy in Arkansas! August 10, 2017, is the date we received our first racing chariot in the state. We will celebrate this anniversary with dinner, live entertainment, door prizes, and a silent auction on Friday evening at 6:00 pm in Disciples Hall. Paper tickets for the dinner are available in the church office to sell or purchase. Tickets are \$20.

The meal will be catered by Art’s Barbeque. Volunteers are needed to decorate Disciples Hall, serve the meal, and clean up. Desserts are also welcomed!

The next morning at 7:30 am, we will have a 5k, downtown Fort Smith. Volunteers are needed to help with registration, work the water-stops and give out prizes. Athlete Riders will be coming from all over Arkansas to participate. We also are in need of sponsors for the 5k. It costs around \$2,000 to put on a certified 5k. Sponsor forms are available in the church office.

Please let Jarrett know as soon as possible if you are willing to help in anyway. If you are unable to volunteer, please buy a ticket for the dinner or consider registering for the 5k. Walkers are welcome!

**Bill & Jette Lindsey Scholarship**

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

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

**“Book” Your Summer Reading!**

Hide from the humidity with a local author: R. M. Snyder. She has given readers “The River Series” – We have the two books which start the series, loosely based on Fort Smith history . They are “Bordertown Gypsy” and “Lynchtown Wolf”. Just in time for the 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration!

Visit [rmsnyderthewriter.blogspot.com](http://rmsnyderthewriter.blogspot.com) to read about her. **Margot Mundy**

**For the Record—July 22**

Operating Receipts...	\$ 4,507.00
To Date.....	22,134.51
Endowment.....	25.00
To Date.....	730.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs.....	31,413.55

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