



**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.

## Called to a Mission

As we begin a new church year, a question that I am going to ask repeatedly is: “To what mission is God calling First Christian Church?”

I truly believe that God is calling every disciple of Christ to a particular mission. To what mission is God calling you?

In his book, *Wishful Thinking*, Presbyterian minister Frederick Buechner points out that the English word "vocation" comes from the Latin word *vocare*, to call," which "means the work a person is called to by God" (*Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*, 118).

"Calling" assumes a caller. As Buechner notes, for the Christian, this Caller is the living God.

What makes hearing the call of God so difficult is that God's voice is not the only voice calling out to us.

*"There are all different kinds of voices calling you to all different kinds of work, and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God rather than of Society, say, or the Superego, or Self-Interest" (118)*

How do we discern God's voice amidst a cacophony of other voices? Buechner offers some advice:

*"By and large a good rule for finding out is this: the kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need most to do and (b) that the world most needs to have done. ... The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet" (118-19).*

A good way to think about calling, Buechner suggests, is as the intersection between your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger. According to Buechner, calling involves both a look inward and a look outward.

Buechner assumes a certain amount of introspection is involved in discerning God's call. Specifically, Buechner encourages those with questions about calling to think carefully about that which satisfies their deepest desires. However, Buechner insists the call of God is not merely Self-Interest. So whatever this deep gladness is, it's not selfish ambition.

Buechner is referring to something much deeper. Something that's a part of who you are, who you were created to be.

During the next month or so, my hope is that we will prayerfully discern the point where our deep gladness and the world's hunger meet.

**Jarrett**

## Thank You “FCC Family”!!

This summer's service project supports the daily “Sack Lunch Program”, and here are our results. In various sized containers, we will donate 4 gallons of mayo, 1 gallon of relish and 8 lbs. of mustard. To make sandwich fillings, we have 17.5 pounds of peanut butter with 7 lbs. of jellies, and most spectacularly, 26 lbs. of canned tuna. Assorted other donations include 500 bags, Vienna sausage and applesauce. Many, many thanks for your loving and generous response!!

**AR DW Women's Groups**

## All-Church Youth Event

All youth and those young a heart, let's go swimming! Bruce Birkhead invited us to use his swimming pool on **Friday, August 12, from 2 to 5 pm**. If needed, transportation can be arranged.

We will meet as a group once more before school resumes for a few hours of fun, fellowship, and swimming. There will be pizza to snack on. So please plan to attend.

Children under third grade will need a parent in attendance.

**John Mundy**

**Fellowship and Service Opportunities**

**Worship and Education Opportunities**

**Church Calendar**

**Sunday, August 12**

- 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
- 9:00 am Mission Café
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 pm Cabinet
- 6:30 pm Youth Meeting
- 6:45 pm Ministry Teams

**Tuesday, August 14**

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
- 10:00 am Group 1 (Parlor)
- 1:00 pm Group 2 (Parlor)

**Wednesday, August 15**

- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

**August 12**

**“Hanging Between Heaven and Earth”  
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33**

**Elders**

Nina Abernathy and Jim Creekmore

**Deacons**

Floyd Hamm (Foreman), Ben Maxey, Marilyn Maxey, Margot Mundy, Dewayne Pryor, Greta Pryor, Audrey Stewart, Harold Stewart

**Prepare Communion**

Janet LaForce

**Greeters**

Dewayne and Greta Pryor

**Worship Leader**

Nina Abernathy

**Cabinet & Ministries**

Sunday, August 12

**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.

**Dianna’s Notes**

**Music Schedule**

**August 12** Dianna Jackson and Kaycee Young, Vocal Duet

**Choirs Resume**

- August 15** Chancel Choir, Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 pm
- August 22** Children’s Music, Wednesday, 4:15-5:30 pm
- August 26** Disciples Bells, Sunday, 4:30-5:30 pm
- August 29** Prime Time Bells, Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 am
- September 9** Jubilation Bells for 4th Grade-High School Bell Choir (New Beginning Youth Handbell Choir) Time TBA

**Concerns and Celebrations of the Community**

- **Irvin Moyle**, 1001 Third Terrace, Barling, AR 72923
- **Mercedes Allen**, 109 Kennedy Circle, Roland, OK 74954
- **Mickie Matthews**, 4101 Free Ferry Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72903

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

**Bill & Jette Lindsey Scholarship**

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

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

**Need a Ride?**

Do you need a ride to FCC Sunday service this week? Please contact Barbara in the church office or for August 12 and August 19, contact:

**Randy Alexander, 479-462-3199**

**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—August 1**

Operating Receipts .....	\$ 10,502.85
Endowment .....	619.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs .....	31,413.55

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