



Fort Smith Disciple

December 12, 2018
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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.

Everybody Needs Somebody with a Skin Face

Annunciation—it’s the big word to describe the call of God on a person’s life. It is when ordinary lives are caught up in the extraordinary purposes of God.

The Bible is full of such stories. Someone is minding his or her own business, and then, out of nowhere, comes this call. And usually the person being called is startled and even afraid to be called by God. This is why Gabriel says to Mary, “Do not be afraid.” And then the person being called usually has a lot of questions. Mary asks, “How can this be?”

And who could blame her for asking? She is but a virgin engaged to be married to Joseph. She was far too young for such an annunciation.

That’s the way it is with most all annunciations. Do you remember the annunciation of Abraham? When God called Abraham in the middle of the night, he was too dumbfounded to speak—probably because he thought he was too old for such an annunciation. Do you remember the annunciation of his wife Sarah? When she was called, she laughed out loud!

We learn throughout the Bible, that this is simply the way God works. God is in the annunciation business. Ordinary people are called throughout scripture to become caught up in the extraordinary purposes of God. And guess what? God is still calling ordinary people today.

A little girl was having trouble going to sleep during a thunderstorm one night. Her father went into her room where she lay frightened in her bed. She said, “I’m scared daddy, I don’t want to sleep by myself. Can I sleep with you and Mommy?”

He said, “Darling, you are not by yourself, God is here with you. So you don’t need to be scared. Just know that God is here watching over you and go to sleep.” She said, “I know that Daddy, but tonight, I think I need to sleep with someone who has a skin face!”

This is why God is in the annunciation business. This is what Christmas is all about! This is why the Word became flesh. This is why God came to earth...with a skin face! The truth is: everybody needs somebody with a skin face. God realizes that, and God calls people like you and me with skin faces every day for God’s purposes.

This holiday season, I hope that you will say “yes” to that call!

Jarrett

Worship and Education Opportunities

December 16

"I Smell Smoke"
Luke 3:7-18

Elders

Dan Marshall and Linda Creekmore

Deacons

Connie Alexander (Foreman), Darlene Brees, Janet LaForce, Tim Randolph, LaBeth Riggs, Steve Riggs, Elizabeth Vaughn, David Williamson

Prepare Communion

LaBeth Riggs

Greeters

Tim Randolph and David Williamson

Worship Leader

Dan Marshall

Dianna's Notes

Children's Chimes and Jubilation Bells meet at 9:10 am in the Sanctuary to rehearse.

Worship Music

- December 16** Children's Chimes and Jubilation Bells
- December 23** Bell Ensemble
- December 24** Disciples Bells; Disciples Bells Quintet; Robbie Wilson, Solo
- December 30** Bruce Birkhead, Solo

December 19: Prime Time will meet for rehearsal and lunch at Golden Corral following rehearsal.

Advent Worship

- December 15** Youth (cookies and caroling)
- December 24** 6:00 pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion

Angel Tree

THE LAST DAY TO BRING YOUR GIFT IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16.

Our finest gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.

Please give generously to this year's Christmas Offering received on December 16 and 23.



Fellowship and Service Opportunities

Friendship Class Party

The Friendship Class Christmas party will be on **Friday, December 14, at 6:00 pm** in the home of Randy and Julie Jay. Their address is 3405 South 29th Circle. Please bring finger foods to share and a gift for "dirty Santa".

Youth Fellowship Activities

It's time again to break out your amazing cookie recipes and join the youth on **December 15 at 1:00 pm** to bake from scratch those yummy cookies, and we will have a small dinner of Harold and Audrey Stewart's pizza. After dinner, we will travel to area nursing homes, sing Christmas carols and hand out cookies.

We will need at least five people to come with their recipes and ingredients to bake the cookies. Please call John or the church office if you wish to help. This is a fun event for all and a time to help in a great cause.

Christmas Dinner

Men and women are invited to our Disciples Men's Fellowship on **Monday, December 17, at 6:30 pm. Reservations requested.** Please let Barbara in the office know by **Friday, December 21**, if you plan to attend and how many. Howard Marshall will have the short devotion.

Menu : Slow roasted Prime Rib, garlic roasted mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, dessert, Coffee, Tea

Youth Christmas Party this Sunday

Our Christmas Party is Sunday evening right after bells, and we are asking each family to provide an appetizer to share with everyone. Please text (883-0229) or email (topnana@cox.net) Marilyn Maxey to let us know what you plan to bring. Thank you so much for your help. This will be our last Youth meeting until after Christmas break.

We wish you all the peace and love of the first Christmas!

Church Growth Seminar

How will we add new members to our church in 2019? As you have already figured out, it is much different than the way we added members in 1999. On **Sunday morning, January 13**, Dr. Banks will use the Sunday School hour to introduce a Church Growth Seminar that he will be leading on Wednesday nights beginning January 16. The seminar will follow supper, which will be served at 5:30 pm in Disciples Hall.

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- **Greta Pryor** in the loss of her mother, Janice Rickman

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

Announcements

MEMORIALS: We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts, given as a thoughtful expression of sympathy and of care...

In Memory of:

- **Janice Rickman** by Steve & Rebecca Parke; John & Vicki Warren; David & Kristi Williamson
- **Naomi Hatley** by Steve & Rebecca Parke
- **Imogene Price** by Steve & Rebecca Parke

The following thank-you notes were received.

- ◆ A big THANK YOU to all of those who helped with Holiday in the Park and to all of you who made cookies. Many were very thankful for some hot chocolate on a chilly evening and some yummy cookies. What a great way to meet and greet some train riders from our community!!!
Community Outreach Ministry
- ◆ A special thanks to Disciples Women’s Fellowship for the poinsettias for the office staff.
Jarrett, Barbara and Pam
- ◆ For many children, Christmas at the Children’s Emergency Shelter is their first time to receive gifts and embrace the magic that surrounds such a joyous holiday. Your support gives our children the opportunity to enjoy the season of giving and celebrate by having the opportunity to just be kids. Thank you for including the CES in your Christmas traditions with a donation of \$150.
Ashley Fitzhugh, Director of Development
- ◆ My family is so grateful for the lovely opportunity to gather in the Fellowship Hall after my mom’s service. FCC meant the world to Mom. Than you for honoring her.
Sincerely, Jill Hatley for the Hatley family

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.

Church Calendar

- Sunday, December 16**
 Third Sunday of Advent
 Christmas Offering
 Angel Tree Deadline
 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
 9:00 am Mission Café
 9:30 am Sunday School
 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
 3:30 pm Disciples Bells
 5:00 pm Jubilation Bells
 5:45 pm Youth Christmas Party
- Monday, December 17**
 6:30 pm Christmas Prime Rib Dinner
- Tuesday, December 18**
 9:00 am Staff Meeting
- Wednesday, December 19**
 10:00 am Prime Time Bells
 11:30 am Lunch Bunch (TBA)
 4:15 pm Children’s Music Party
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

New Members

Contact information of **Marc and Catie Kendall:**
 3401 Park Avenue, Apt. 33, Fort Smith, AR 72903
 918-896-5217

For the Record – December 9

Operating Receipts	\$ 3,054.46
To Date.....	13,523.06
Endowment.....	345.00
To Date.....	810.00
Monthly Budgeted Needs.....	31,413.55

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