



**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.

## 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.

## “The Honeymoon Is Over”

The pastor-church relationship has often been compared to marriage. The first year or so that a pastor spends with a church has been described as a “honeymoon.” As newlyweds spend their honeymoon enjoying one another and getting to know one another, the pastor and the church spend the first part of their relationship doing the same. The writer of Ecclesiastes would call this “a time to laugh,” “a time to dance” and “a time to embrace.”

However, time and seasons change. As much as either party desires it, the honeymoon cannot last forever. Sooner or later the time comes to face reality and to get to work. And work is just that. It is work. It is “a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what has been planted.” It is “a time to break down, and a time to build up.”

During the last few months, the Church Cabinet, Elders and I have been discussing the work that needs to be done in the life and ministry of our church. We need to work on evangelism and church growth. We need to work on meeting our missional obligations here in our region and around the world. We need to work on improving the stewardship of our congregation as it pertains to both spiritual and financial gifts.

To help us prepare for this work, during the Sunday School hour on January 13, I will introduce a “Church Growth in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” seminar that will begin Wednesday night January 16. I have also invited our Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, to lead us in a time of “Spiritual Gift Discernment.” This is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 19.

I know this seems like a lot of work. But the honeymoon is over. It’s time to go to work.

## Bill & Jette Lindsay Scholarship

The trustees will offer scholarship money to any student that will be enrolled in college this coming spring semester. Contact the church office for a form or print the scholarship form attached to this email and return it to the church as soon as possible.

## Cabinet & Ministry Teams Meet Sunday

**6:00 pm Cabinet Meeting**  
*(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.

**Worship and Education Opportunities**

**Announcements**

**January 2**

**“Church Growth Epiphany”**  
Ephesians 3:1-12

**Elders**  
Dan & Zena Marshall

**Deacons**  
Jesse Bailey (Foreman), Stephanie Bailey, Jimmy Hudlow, Brad Kidder Jr., Kim Kidder, Barbara Lynch, Nick Oliver, Elizabeth Vaughn

**Prepare Communion**  
Patience Hudlow

**Greeters**  
Nick Oliver and Elizabeth Vaughn

**Homebound Communion**  
1. David Pulliam, Brad Kidder Jr.  
2. Zena Marshall, Kim Kidder

**Worship Leader**  
Dan Marshall

**Church Calendar**

**Sunday, January 6**  
Homebound Communion  
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 Snacks/Supper  
Youth Meeting  
6:00 pm Cabinet  
6:45 pm Ministry Teams

**Tuesday, January 8**  
9:00 am Staff Meeting  
10:00 am Group 1 (Parlor)  
1:00 pm Group 2 (Parlor)  
6:00 pm Group 3 (Parlor)

**Wednesday, January 9**  
10:00 am Prime Time Bells  
3:30 pm Butterfield Worship  
4:15 pm Children’s Music  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

**Dianna’s Notes**

No rehearsals on January 2.

Disciples Bells and Jubilation Bells rehearsals resume January 6.

Children’s Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsals resume January 9.

**Fellowship and Service Opportunities**

**Youth News**

◆ Snoasis is **February 22-24, 2019**. This camp is located at Camp Couchdale in Hot Springs for grades 6 through 12. If you wish to attend, please let John Mundy know. This year's theme: Identity Crisis; Who are you? We will have registration forms at the church office.

**Church News**

If you did not receive a church news email on Tuesday, January 1, and would like to be added to the list, please call the office or email me at [barbarafcc@mynewroads.com](mailto:barbarafcc@mynewroads.com).

**Concerns and Celebrations of the Community**

**Audrey Stewart** in the loss of Harold  
2816 Ionia, Fort Smith 72901

Visitation Ocker-Putnam on **Sunday 2:00-4:00 pm**.

Funeral **Monday at 10:00 am** at FCC.

Burial Oak Cemetery, Fort Smith

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

**For the Record – December 23 & 30**

Operating Receipts .....	\$ 7,938.97
To Date .....	26,805.43
Endowment .....	60.00
To Date .....	970.00
Christmas Offering.....	1,586.95
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs .....	31,413.55

**Mission Express O Café**

The café opens at **9am each Sunday** morning. All the proceeds support the Mission trips. Set-up **begins at 8:30am Sunday**. Come join us for fellowship, a cup of coffee and doughnuts.

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