



**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

**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.

## 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.

## Home by Another Way

Having been warned in a dream about the fear and dishonesty of King Herod, the Wise Men went home by another way.

As I said at the funeral service for Harold Steward, today, I believe we are presented with the same choice.

Do we go home following the instructions of King Herod? Do we go home by collaborating with the empire? Or do we go home by another way?

Do we go home following the way of greed and power, the way of self-centeredness and fear, the way of deceit and cowardice, the way of exclusion and isolation? Or do we go home by another way?

We please King Herod? Or do we become wise ones and please God?

Although I was using the term “going home” to speak about death, I believe we can also use the term to speak about church growth.

Do we grow our church by the way of the culture? Do we grow by pleasing people? Or do we grow by pleasing God?

Do we give people what they want even if it goes against what we believe, or do we stay true to ourselves and our understanding of the gospel? Do we grow to simply to maintain our church buildings and staff, or do we grow to fulfill our mission to be the church in the world?

My prayer is that we are wise ones who choose to grow our church by the way of mission over maintenance, wonderment over entertainment, theology over technology, and social justice over personal piety.

**Jarrett**

## Revised Church Growth Seminar Schedule

### Sunday, January 13, 9:30 am

During the Sunday School Hour, Dr. Banks will speak candidly about the issues of church growth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Saturday, January 19, 3:00 pm

Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, the Regional Minister for the Great River Region, will lead a seminar to help us assess our spiritual gifts as a congregation. This will help us discover ways we can use our God-given gifts to meet the current needs of the River Valley.

### Sunday, January 20, 9:30 am

Dr. Banks will use the Sunday School hour to follow-up Dr. Burton’s work with us on Saturday.

### Wednesday, January 23, and Wednesday, January 30, 5:30 pm

Following a church-wide supper from 5:30-6:15 pm, we will explore ways we can grow our congregation together in this New Year.

## Worship and Education Opportunities

### January 13

**“Heaven on Earth”  
Matthew 3:13-17**

**Elders**

Jim Creekmore and 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

**Worship Leader**

Jim Creekmore

### Dianna’s Notes

**January 20** Disciples Bell  
Worship Service and Ordination Service

### Sonna’s Ordination

Ordination ceremony for  
Rev. Soniyah “Sonna” B. Key  
**Sunday, January 20, 3:00 pm**

### FCC Book Club

**Tuesday, January 22, at 10:-00 am** in the Parlor will be the next FCC Book Club Meeting. We will discuss the book, *Brain on Fire*, by Susannah Cahalan.

## Fellowship and Service Opportunities

### Youth News

Snoasis is **February 22-24**. This camp is located at Camp Couchdale in Hot Springs for grades 6-12. 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.

### An Opportunity for Service

We have a wonderful opportunity to prepare and serve lunch one Monday each month at Hope Campus, a local homeless shelter. The next opportunity for service will be **Monday, January 28**. The menu and food will be provided by the Campus Kitchen. The Hope Campus Chef will be there to lead us. We will work from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. This time includes: doing the preparation, cooking, serving, and cleaning up. For more information or to sign up, call/text **Ginger Jefferies at 414-2466**.

## Announcements

### Church Calendar

**Sunday, January 13**

8:30 am Worship (Chapel)  
9:00 am Mission Café  
9:30 am Church Growth Seminar  
10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)  
3:30 pm Disciples Bells  
5:00 pm Jubilation Bells  
5:45 pm Youth Snacks/Supper  
Youth Meeting

**Tuesday, January 15**

9:00 am Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, January 16**

10:00 am Prime Time Bells  
4:15 pm Children’s Music  
5:30 pm Supper  
6:15 pm Church Growth Seminar  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

**Saturday, January 19**

3:00 pm Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton  
“Spiritual Gift Discernment”

**Sunday, January 20**

3:00 pm Sonna’s Ordination Service

### Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- **Gerre Walker** in the passing of her husband, **Maxie**
- **Audrey Stewart** in the passing of her husband, **Harold**

### For the Record –January 6

Operating Receipts .....	\$ 12,129.06
Endowment.....	495.00
Monthly Budgeted	
Needs.....	31,413.55

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

- ◆ In Memory of **Harold Stewart** by Hardie & Ginger Jefferies, Mary McCollough, Dewayne & Greta Pryor, David & Judy Trent, John & Vicki Warren, David & Kristi Williamson
- ◆ In Memory of **Billy (Bob) Robert Patton**, Debbie Foster’s father, by David & Judy Trent