



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.

Board Meeting

There will be a board meeting on **Sunday, January 27, at 5:30 pm (Note time change).**

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 in the church office.

The Danger of Being Moderate

From a jail in Birmingham, Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote:

"First, I must confess that over the last few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council-er or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice."

Today, I believe the moderation that King called "a stumbling block" is the reason that, to many, the church looks almost nothing like the Jesus we read about in the Gospels. And because of that, people have left the church in droves.

In our attempt to keep everyone in the pews comfortable and tension-free, we have not only watered down the gospel of Jesus, but we have actually replaced it with something completely different, something innocuously personal and private. When we say, we need to share the gospel, we are not saying anything remotely close to: "We need to transform this world by bringing good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed."

When we preach our version of the gospel, cultural norms and unjust systems remain unchallenged; thus, the people in the pews who benefit from those norms and systems remain unchallenged. However, those who are oppressed by them remain oppressed—the very opposite of what Jesus said the good news was about.

Today, I am grateful to be a part of a church that is committed to the gospel of Jesus. This way is challenging. It makes us uncomfortable. It creates tension; however, we believe this way is the truth and the life. **Jarrett**

Church Growth Seminar Schedule

Wednesday, January 23, and Wednesday, January 30

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.

Nursery will be available.

Please RSVP the church office if you plan to attend the Wednesday night suppers.

Saturday, January 26, 3:00 –5:30 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.

Worship and Education Opportunities

January 27

"A Word from the Lord"
Rev. Dr. Jarrett Banks
Luke 4:14-29

Elders

Jim Creekmore and Kristi Williamson

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

Prime Time Bells meet Sunday at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary to rehearse "Come Christians, Join to Sing".

Music Schedule

- January 27** Prime Time Bells
- February 17** Jubilation Bells & Youth

Concerns and Celebrations of the Community

- ◆ **Betty Cole**, Methodist Village, 7811 Euper Lane, 72903
- ◆ **Brooxine Kidder**, Chapel Ridge, 4623 Rogers Avenue, 72903, Room 414

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

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

- In Memory of **Harold Stewart** by Carl & Evelyn Warrington

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.

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Stewardship Moment

We are stewards "by design", and therefore we recognize that stewardship is a spiritual practice. *Biblical stewardship, broadly defined, is the intentional management of resources on behalf of the rightful owner, who is God.* God governs for the good and well-being of creation. Humans must exercise their designated power in the same manner. This is the goal of stewardship. Doing as God would do matters and is a form of obedience. We are stewards, not owners. Our own mortality affirms we are at best temporary tenants and shareholders of what we claim to possess.

Vision isn't everything, it is the only thing. Vision drives every facet of church life, planning, program, preaching and personnel. It determines what we say yes to and no. A gospel-based vision inspires, attracts and calls us to deeper discipleship. Vision is part of our church's DNA. It is sewn into the fabric of our relationships. It becomes the measure of how we assess our success. Vision allows us success in gathering all our resources to accomplish what God has called us to do. Money follows mission. We must invest in ministry that matters.

(DOC Resource and thoughts from Bruce Barkhauer)

Church Calendar

Saturday, January 26

3:00-5:30pm
 Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton
 Gifts Discernment Workshop

Sunday, January 27

7:30 am Elders' Meeting
 8:30 am Worship (Chapel)
 9:00 am Mission Café
 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
 3:30 pm Disciples Bells
 5:00 pm Jubilation Bells
 5:30 pm Board Meeting
 5:45 pm Youth Snack/Meeting
 7:00 pm *Beer and Hymns* at Fort Smith Brewing Company
 7500 Fort Chaffee Blvd.

Monday, January 28

9:00 am-12:45 pm
 Hope Campus

Tuesday, January 29

9:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 30

10:00 am Prime Time Bells
 4:15 pm Children's Music
 5:30 pm Supper
 6:15 pm Church Growth Seminar
 "Being Church in the 21st Century"
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 31

11:30 am Lunch Bunch (TBA)